

Friday October 25 1980

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THE TIMES

Joy of the grape harvest in Bordeaux, page 14

Canada House of Commons in uproar over 'patriation'

House of Commons in Ottawa yesterday Pierre Trudeau's Liberal Government and its controversial proposals to 'patriate' Canadian Constitution from Westminster in sedent scenes of uproar and anger.

Note asks Britain to transfer Constitution

John Burt
Oct 25
The House of Commons in Ottawa yesterday passed a resolution asking the British Government to transfer the Constitution to Canada. The resolution, which was passed by a majority of 247 to 157, was a direct challenge to the British Government's position on the issue of the Constitution. The resolution was introduced by the Conservative Party and was supported by a number of Liberal MPs. The resolution states that the British Government should transfer the Constitution to Canada as soon as possible. It also states that the British Government should not interfere in the internal affairs of Canada.

enders demand to be heard
The Liberal Government is expected to go further in its 'patriation' by passing an amendment to the Constitution. The amendment would give the provinces a greater role in the decision-making process. The provinces are expected to demand that they be heard in the process. The provinces are expected to demand that they be heard in the process.

Westminster's power of amendment
It can be amended in certain important respects only by decisions taken in Westminster. One example of this is the distribution of powers between the federal and provincial governments. The British attitude all along has been that it is up to the Canadians to state what they want and then the British role is to implement it. The British role is to implement it.

Poland's free union wins recognition but supremacy clause angers leaders

among the union leaders and the eight million Solidarity members as they were confronted with the court's arbitrary decision. Mr. Lech Walesa (the union leader) described it as a "violation of the freedom and independence of trade unions" which ran contrary to official decisions on the renewal of public life. "We shall never agree with it," he said at a press conference convened in the Rosa Luxemburg plant. "We have no intention of signing anything that we want to decide alone on our problems." He said the union would ignore the arbitrary changes written into its statute without its consent and that the Solidarity would take the matter to the Supreme Court. The issue may seem a purely formal one, but it is important to solidarity in the determination to remain independent. In an atmosphere in which the new unions are yet to organize and consolidate, and in the light of past experience



The Prince of Wales (second from left) jumping a fence yesterday on Allibar in the Club Amateur Riders' Handicap Steeplechase at Ludlow. The Prince finished second behind Hello Louis. Report, page 7.

Unions accept 'Times' decision as final

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Newspaper union leaders yesterday accepted that the decision of the Times British Holdings to cease publishing The Times and The Sunday Times was final. This is the end of an era, Mr. Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association (NGA) said. Mr. Gordon Branton, chairman of TBE, told the unions the decision was 'irrevocable'. It was then jointly agreed that efforts by unions and management must be directed towards making the times attractive to prospective purchasers.

What we will be doing now is seeking cooperation between our members and management to get the right climate and the right conditions in which a new buyer can be found to take over the titles and save the jobs. Mr. Wade said. NGA negotiators will hold talks with the management of Times Newspapers on Monday with a view to reaching final agreement on the operation of new technology equipment already installed in Gray's Inn Road. It would be an added inducement to likely buyers if those machines were in operation, Mr. Wade said.

Printing union leaders said they had been given indications that purchases were beginning to emerge. "But a new buyer will need some copper-bottomed guarantees about continuing production, and inevitably the question of retaining jobs will have to be raised," Mr. Wade added. Yesterday's brief meeting at Stratford Place opened with a plea by the unions to management to reconsider the sale or closure decision. Mr. Branton reported afterwards the unions' view that the closure announcement had "concentrated minds, we would say, and created a new climate at Times Newspapers. There could be a new spirit and a totally new situation at Gray's Inn Road, the unions had argued. But Mr. Branton said: "In view of the commitments that had been undertaken and not fulfilled, and promises that had been broken, we really could

H-block men 'ready to meet agonizing death'

By Christopher Thomas
Republican prisoners in the H blocks in the Maze plan to begin their threatened hunger strike on Monday, in spite of the Government's important concession abolishing the wearing of prison uniform. The strike is viewed with alarm by almost every section of Ulster society, and extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide are braced for the possibility of a sharp increase in tension and violence. The political wing of the Ulster Defence Association, potentially the most powerful of the paramilitary forces and far larger than the Provisional IRA, is making no secret of its alarm.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said he had proof that a deal had been done to meet yet more of the prisoners' demands. He added that if the Northern Ireland Office denied his claim he would divulge the source, and withdraw from future constitutional talks on Northern Ireland's political destiny. The Northern Ireland Office promptly denied, "wholly and totally," the claim and Mr. Paisley later backed down on his threat. The situation is potentially the most volatile to confront the authorities in recent times, and certainly is the biggest test for Mr. Humphrey Atkins.

GLC wants nuclear waste ban

The Greater London Council is expected to seek ways to ban the transport of nuclear waste through the capital if talks with the Central Electricity Generating Board, the Department of Transport, British Rail and the Atomic Energy Authority fail to secure a direction outside densely populated areas. GLC concern about public safety and the possibility of terrorist attack on trains carrying waste has increased after a special report to the council on the subject.

No compromise over Palestine

There will be no compromise on the main issues dividing Israel and Egypt in the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy, Mr. Begin said, on the eve of the President's departure for Cairo. It is the first visit to Egypt by an Israeli head of state.

German protest at Luther slur

West German Protestants have been angered by a booklet prepared by Roman Catholics for the Pope's visit next month and which describes Martin Luther as a "mighty sorcerer". Catholics have also protested.

UK urged to join money system

Mr. Roy Jenkins, outgoing President of the European Commission has urged Britain to become a full member of the European Monetary System. This would create greater exchange rate stability for sterling and assist exporters.

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Iraqi claim of victory challenged by Iran

From Tewfik Mishiaw
Beirut, Oct 24
Iraq today said its forces had imposed "complete control" on the embattled Iranian port city of Khorramshahr after wiping out all pockets of resistance. But Iran claimed that it had thrown back an overnight attempt by the Iraqis to capture the city. Baghdad Radio, which alerted its audience to an "important announcement" an hour in advance, said the "good news" was immediately relayed to President Saddam Hussein by Major-General Adnan Khairallah, the Minister of Defence.

"Our heroic forces have imposed a strict control on Khorramshahr (the Arabic name for Khorramshahr) after defeating all the pockets of resistance," the announcement said. The Iraqi flag was hoisted over the governor's office in the city centre, "where hundreds of enemy casualties and military equipment lay in the streets." The announcement did not clearly say that Iraqi troops had "captured" or "occupied" the city, leaving room for speculation that parts of the city, which has been under siege for four weeks, may still be holding out.

Since early this week Iran has repeatedly announced that the defenders of the city were fighting "hand-to-hand, and house-to-house battles" with the advancing Iraqi forces. If the Iraqi claim is true—and it is becoming increasingly difficult to confirm battle claims—it means that Iraq is stepping up operations in an effort to capture substantial Iranian territory to strengthen its political position. The commander of the Iraqi forces who led the battle for Khorramshahr sent a message to Baghdad saying the Iraqi forces had also established "complete control" of the strategic Karun bridge, linking Khorramshahr with Abadan. Help promised: Iraq would help more than 60 merchant ships to leave the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf News Agency reported. Tehran rationing bites, page 4

Mr Foot enters PLP poll dispute

Mr Michael Foot, a contender for the Labour leadership, has joined the dispute with the parliamentary party over its rights in deciding the leadership. He said there was no reason why a wider electoral college should mean a gross assault on parliamentary rights. It was not impossible to contrive a fair system.

Welsh campaign over jobless

Plaid Cymru delegates at their annual conference supported a call to mount a civil disobedience campaign to draw attention to "the horrendous scale" of unemployment in Wales. To win the battle for the television channel was useless, it was said, if potential viewers were driven away to seek jobs elsewhere.

Master of hounds killed fox

A Master of Fox Hounds was prosecuted in Jedburgh sheriff court for pursuing a fox into a factory at Hawick, Roxburghshire, and killing it. He then threw the body to the hounds. Sentence was deferred until the end of the hunting season.

Prison dispute: Mr Whitlaw reaffirms Government's firm stand

Who next? Tom Baker to leave cast of Dr Who
Madrid: Doubts raised about gas fittings at school where children died
Seoul: Court officials dore during Kim appeal against death sentence
Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 25, 26; Postal shopping, 25; Home and garden, 25; Christmas countdown, 22.

Paul Griffiths, John Higgins, William Martin, Stanley Sadie and Richard Williams	Obituary, page 16
Miss K. M. Briggs, Mr. Vukobratovic, Sir Geoffrey Harcourt	Sport, pages 6, 7
Navratilova says tennis' Miss Fennell should be changed: Football: Andy Gray out for two months after training injury	Business News, pages 17-21
Stock Markets: Gilt closed on a firm note helped by further calls for a cut in M.L.R. Equities overcame early profit taking to end the account on a firm note with the FT index rising 3.0 to 495.3	

Meter maids to enforce gutter tactics in Paris

From Ian Murray
Paris, October 24
The periwinkle, so the dictionary tells us, is a hardy plant of considerable value in shady places. In Paris the periwinkle is also the polite nom de guerre given to parking meter maidens, whose bright blue uniforms both give them their nickname and act as a warning signal to erring motorists. Their hardy qualities in shady places are, however, to be put to the test more fully from the start of next month. They have been charged by M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, with the task of teaching dogs not to much kerd drill as gutter drill.

For about six months the Paris City Council has been conducting a massive campaign to clean up the capital's pavements, which are the place where most of the million or so four-legged animals of the city find relief. The campaign has taken the form of a poster and television advertising onslaught which is a masterpiece of genteel euphemism.

The posters seem to be on every street corner, which many dogs find a handy place for standing on their legs. The posters show man's best friend staring out with the saddest of expressions, clearly aware of the crime he is being allowed to commit and with the slogan in a bright and meaningful yellow: "Teach him about the gutter". The television campaign comprises several short dramatic sketches. One example: A woman hurrying along a road with dog on lead is brought to an abrupt halt at the top of stairs leading down to the Metro by the aforementioned dog. The camera pans discreetly upward. Enter on scene pompous-faced woman in fur, wrinking nose; then the attempted exit by the shamed dog owner, but not in time to avoid the fur-wrapped woman, coughing and pointing downwards, saying: "Pardon me but I think you have left something behind in the gutter".

The campaign, according to M. Chirac today, has been partially successful, but not sufficiently so to enable the pavements of Paris to be the sort of place where a man, woman or child can walk all without looking down every few paces. It is with some reluctance that it has been agreed to supplement the friendly efforts of the past few months with something more friendly help of the hardy periwinkle.

From the start of November their duties are to be extended beyond sticking green parking tickets on windshields. From then, as M. Chirac put it today, they will also be authorized "to make remarks to the owners of dogs". To begin with the offending owner will only be handed a little leaflet explaining the danger of having a well-disciplined dog. If that does not work then the periwinkles are going to be authorized to hand out tickets.

It is clearly not a job anyone should turn their nose up at. The campaign is to be extended beyond sticking green parking tickets on windshields. From then, as M. Chirac put it today, they will also be authorized "to make remarks to the owners of dogs". To begin with the offending owner will only be handed a little leaflet explaining the danger of having a well-disciplined dog. If that does not work then the periwinkles are going to be authorized to hand out tickets.

Clocks go back

British Summer Time ends officially at 3 am tomorrow, when clocks go back one hour to Greenwich Mean Time. BST resumes on Sunday, March 29 next year.

How to enjoy a gilt-edged future

The 1980 Finance Act, opens a significant new opportunity for the private investor to invest simply and effectively through a unit trust in a managed portfolio of gilts and other fixed interest securities.

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HOME NEWS

Dr Owen challenges Mr Foot's views on the leadership

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, a contender for the Labour Party leadership, last night joined in the controversy inside the parliamentary Labour Party over its own rights in deciding the leadership.

His views were challenged by Dr David Owen, former Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who is one of the members of the so-called "Gang of Three".

Mr Foot, addressing the management committee of his Ebbw Vale constituency party, said that the wider electoral college for the Labour leader could mean a gross assault on parliamentary rights "but there is no reason whatever why it should".

"Did anyone anywhere raise a protest on these grounds of parliamentary rights when the Liberal Party a few years ago extended their franchise outside Parliament?"

Mr Foot said it was true that the new system could involve a serious erosion of parliamentary authority and that was why he urged both the party's national executive committee and the parliamentary party to "go about the business of preparing for the January conference with great care and understanding".

"But to say that it is impossible to contrive a fair system strikes me as absurd."

But last night Dr Owen challenged Mr Foot as to what he was proposing by his reference to the Liberal Party and its process of electing a party leader.

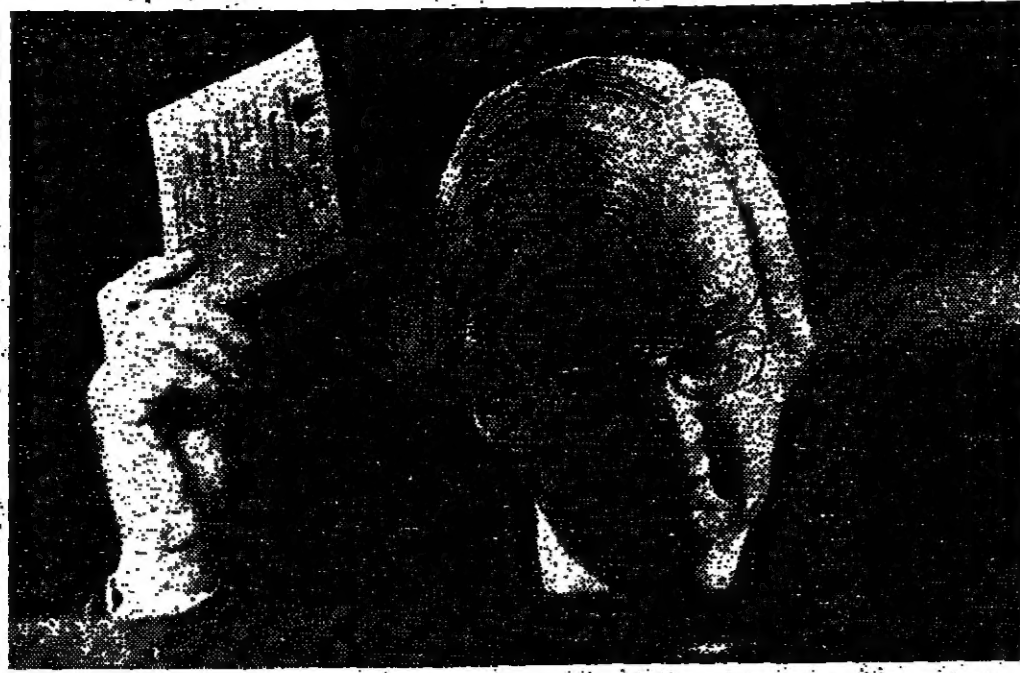
He said in a speech at Salisbury that widening the franchise "on the basis of one person, one vote, with everyone eligible voting in a secret ballot under independent supervision and with weighting for the parliamentary party cannot possibly be described as undemocratic or illegitimate".

But he questioned the proposals being put forward which could involve the block vote of trade unions and constituency parties as well as MPs in electing the party leader.

He said: "When a delegate speaks with the mandate which seems from all the Labour Party members in a constituency party they will have real authority."

"Similarly, who can doubt those trade union leaders who speak with the authority of a ballot of their members behind them on issues relating to industry or to politics, respect and authority?"

In a poll of 218 Labour MPs, conducted by the BBC News last night, the voting for the Labour Party leader was: Mr Healey, 67; Mr Foot, 51; Mr Silkin, 20, and Mr Peter Shore, 15.



Mr Gwynfor Evans, president of Plaid Cymru, voting at the party's conference yesterday.

Disobedience campaign on jobs

From Tim Jones
Porthcawl

Delegates to Plaid Cymru's annual conference in Porthcawl yesterday supported a call to mount a campaign of civil disobedience in Wales to fight unemployment.

Spurred on by the success of the campaign for a fourth channel television that forced the Government into its first demonstration, delegates were determined to direct the momentum engendered by that into other potentially volatile issues.

The successful motion called on members to involve themselves "in direct actions and factory occupations to draw

attention to the horrendous scale of unemployment in Wales."

Mr John Dixon, party treasurer, said: "This party cannot stand idly by and watch the hearts of communities in industrial and rural Wales. We have got to fight unemployment with the same intensity and fervour as we fought to defend the language."

He told people who were prepared to take direct action to go to the back of the conference hall and sign a form committing themselves to the campaign.

The motion also called on branches to give full support to the West Wales branch, which have indicated the possibility

of conducting a similar civil disobedience campaign against the Government's economic policies in Wales.

Mr Dafydd Iwan, one of the party's leaders, said the Government's policies were breaking the hearts of communities in industrial and rural Wales. "We have got to fight unemployment with the same intensity and fervour as we fought to defend the language."

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Cunard dispute over transfers deadlocked

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The National Union of Seamen and the Cunard Line were deadlocked last night in the dispute over the company's decision to transfer two of its passenger vessels to "flag of convenience" waters.

The dispute concerned the Queen Elizabeth 2, which was to be transferred to the flag of the Bahamas, and the Queen Elizabeth, which was to be transferred to the flag of the United Kingdom.

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closed that the union liaison committee on the Queen Elizabeth 2 had called on the union to recognize that industrial action so far had been detrimental to the union's members on Cunard vessels.

The union committee, set up in 1976, has been asked to decide by the union's executive whether to call a strike of Cunard members on cargo and passenger vessels, and to hold meetings with a view to a national one-day strike which would badly disrupt cross-Channel and Irish passenger services on November 3.

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Big cuts in health service are feared

By Paul Hellyar
and Annabel Ferguson

There are increasing fears that the health service will be hit by cuts as the Treasury's health service programme is implemented.

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Provocation charge by prison officers

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The prison officers did not, as expected, increase their sanctions yesterday, and the number of prisoners in police cells remained unchanged yesterday, the Home Office said.

The respite may be brief. A statement by Mr William Whitelaw, the Secretary of State for the Home Office yesterday, said that the Government would not move from its firm stand in the dispute even if the officers intensified their action.

On Tuesday the executive of the Prison Officers' Association met to discuss its response. The reason given by Mr Colin Steel, its chairman, for not increasing action yesterday was the conflict of interest between service documents which were before the executive committee.

Mr Steel believes the documents indicate provocation by the department. That Mr Whitelaw has firmly denied. The Home Office repeated the details yesterday.

But Mr Steel gave as a reason for not increasing action yesterday the need to avoid playing into the Home Office's hands by allowing them to say that any

prisoner reaction was the fault of the officers.

One of the letters sent by Mr Gordon Fowler, deputy director general of the Prison Service, to governors said that the indications were that the association would try to preserve the good will of prisoners, and their (the officers') take home peace as possible.

The letter adds: "At a personal level do not hesitate to use your inventiveness and ingenuity, especially in terms of press and media interviews (especially involving on possible disruption to press correspondence, transfer, etc.)."

The word "inventiveness" in particular has angered prison officers.

With so many charges and counter-charges, it is difficult to see how the words on Monday will be scrutinized for every nuance.

He said yesterday of the officers' action: "Nothing can be done by doing what I have obviously my duty to the Government and the people of this country."

"If their action does lead to a situation where police cells are full and the safety of the public is in danger, then I have to take whatever contingency measures are necessary to obviate that danger."

Call to simplify system on police complaints

By Our Home Affairs
Correspondent

Many complaints against the police are a result of misunderstanding, and some of them classified as criminal, could be handled by a greatly simplified procedure, Lord Plowden, chairman of a working party looking at aspects of such complaints, said yesterday.

Lord Plowden, who is also chairman of the Police Complaints Board, gave as an example a complaint about bad language. "But it is essential that all complaints are seen to be openly and fairly dealt with," he said at a police dinner in Manchester.

A question being asked increasingly by protest groups, responsible public groups, and by press, radio and television was: "Why are the police

allowed to investigate allegations of wrongdoing committed by themselves?"

It was right that complaints should be investigated by policemen who handled them carefully and painstakingly, but there was advantage in having an outside organization that looked at the result of an investigation before a final decision was reached.

Lord Plowden referred to an opinion poll in *The Times* sponsored by a committee of businessmen of which he was chairman. The only two institutions that came out of it well were the monarchy and the police. Although 71 per cent of those questioned thought the police did a good job, there were groups within that percentage, mostly in the inner cities, who did not feel as satisfied as the majority.

Staff backing for 'Times' consortium plan

By Dan van der Vae

The plan for a consortium to save *The Times* and its three supplements will depend for its success on separating the publication from the *Sunday Times*, Mr William Rees-Mogg, Editor of *The Times* told staff journalists yesterday. The *Sunday Times*, he said, was a natural commercial proposition on its own.

He emphasized the importance of obtaining agreement with the printing trade unions if the consortium scheme was to work and promised that decisions would be made only after consulting the editorial staff.

He also gave a warning that the present proprietor, Lord Thomson of Fleet, his family and chief executives would have to be convinced that the idea was practical. He would seek to persuade them during a visit to North America next week. It remains entirely possible that the Thomson interests might receive offers for some or all of the titles which they would regard as more attractive, although he was confident that the integrity of the

newspapers would be maintained.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Institute of Journalists (IOJ) affirmed their support for the consortium initiative at special meetings yesterday. Each group nominated three members to serve on the consortium.

Mr Rees-Mogg said that Mr Harold Evans, the Editor of *The Sunday Times* shared his view about the separation of the newspapers. The *Sunday Times*, he said, was a natural commercial proposition on its own.

He also gave a warning that the present proprietor, Lord Thomson of Fleet, his family and chief executives would have to be convinced that the idea was practical. He would seek to persuade them during a visit to North America next week. It remains entirely possible that the Thomson interests might receive offers for some or all of the titles which they would regard as more attractive, although he was confident that the integrity of the

Naturally most of the potential supporters wanted to remain anonymous at this stage, but the public expression of interest by Lord Weinstock, chief executive of the GEC, was extremely valuable because it lent credibility to the scheme.

The NUJ chapter (office branch), which has about 270 members on *The Times* and its supplements, resolved yesterday by a large majority: "In order to give early effect to the editor's stated desire to involve journalists in a syndicate to take over publication of *The Times*, this NUJ chapter proposes the establishment of a working group of journalists and managers which, with the editor, would aim to ensure the continued publication of the main title and its three supplements."

The motion also proposed a membership of five for the group, including three named journalists, and called for meetings at least twice a week.

The IOJ chapter, which has about 40 members, at a separate meeting later in the day, also nominated three journalists to serve on such a working group. Members also pledged

their support for the editor's efforts to establish a consortium to run the newspaper and its supplements with the editorial staff and reaffirmed "its acceptance of new technology as a means of achieving profitability."

Maxwell, chairman of Pergamon Press, said last night that his interest in acquiring *The Times* had been put on ice pending the success or failure of the initiative of Mr Rees-Mogg to save the title (our Business News staff writes). Mr Maxwell said his interest in acquiring *The Sunday Times* remained unchanged.

On Thursday, Mr Maxwell received the approval of Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Trade, for his company's purchase of 30 per cent of British Printing Corporation, which holds the printing contract for *The Sunday Times* and its supplements. However, Mr Maxwell's efforts to establish a consortium with the board of BPC and possibly gain board representation, which has been his investment has not so far been successful.

Letters, page 15

Findings of leak anger MPs

Continued from page 1

of the Press Association political staff who had obtained a list of names for the leak.

The ministry's investigation are due to present the full report next week. Initial suspicion fell upon the chief of staff, whose name was leaked in 1978, leading to the Press Association facts about wastage in the services.

One of the chiefs confessed to a leak of information to the Press Association. The chief of staff of the Conservative Party, Mr William Whitelaw, said yesterday that it was "tempting" to say that the leak was "a betrayal of the trust" placed in him by the Government.

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Dismissal notices go out in 3 to 5 weeks

Continued from page 1

strong survival of these papers," he said.

In that context Mr Rees-Mogg's proposal would merit very serious consideration. Negotiations towards a sale need not take a tremendously long time. It was impossible to fix a sale price because the various publications could be offered to different potential purchasers. No one had yet asked to look at the books.

Asked about dismissal notices

to employees, Mr Brunton said they would go out in three to five weeks, but they could be extended if negotiations towards a sale were proceeding.

He felt great personal pain about the company's decision to cease publishing the titles by next March. "But I would not like anyone to think this is the end of Thomson's publishing interests in Britain," he said. "I have spent in Belfast to make the paper there the most efficient in Europe, and the same thing was happening in Blackburn."

Another £15m was going into an entirely new directory operation in Britain, and the company had ideas and plans, when opportunity and new technology allowed, to create a lot of new publishing ventures.

One era may have ended, but I believe there are massive opportunities still and we intend to be at the forefront," he said.

Beast of Powys eludes police

After a day-long siege armed police hunting the mystery beast of Powys in mid-Wales found nothing in a barn where it was thought to be hiding.

Reports of a roaming predator at the farm, near Llangurig, Powys, began after four sheep were found savagely killed and eaten. It was thought that a dog had killed them.

The police told people yesterday to be on the alert for anything suspicious.

Mild tone on council pay

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

A conciliatory tone was set in the opening stages of pay negotiations yesterday covering more than one million local authority manual workers, who are expected to be offered a single-figure increase.

Union leaders who presented a claim for substantial increases, a shorter working week and longer holidays, said they recognized the employers' difficulties in view of the Government's determination to

limit public sector pay rises this year to single figures.

Mr Charles Donnet, national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, and leader of the union negotiating team, said after the talks: "We are seeking sympathetic consideration of our claim and in return we are sympathetic to the employers' situation."

The employers are due to reply to the claim next month, but they have made clear recently that the most they could pay could not exceed single figures.

South Africa halts visit

By Ian Bradley

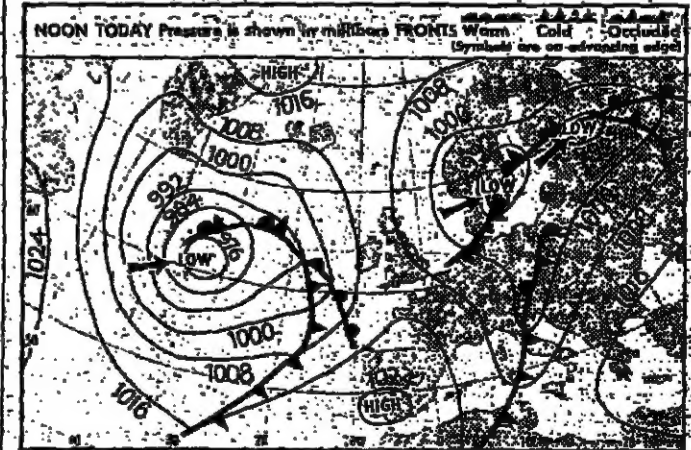
Mr Paul Stephenson, the only black member of the Sports Council, has been refused a visa by the South African Government.

Mr Stephenson had intended to travel to South Africa today having been invited there by the multiracial South African Council of Sport to examine

and report on the development of non-racial sport.

He said: "The South African authorities telephoned me last week to say that I could not enter the country without prior permission. No visa was issued to me. I have been forced to postpone this trip. This is a deliberate manoeuvre to prevent the seeing what I wanted to see, but I am not giving up."

Weather forecast and recordings



Supporter fined £25 for Docherty attack

A football supporter accused of assaulting Mr Tommy Docherty, the former manager of Manchester United, was described as a "hooligan" by Judge Ivor Taylor, QC, at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Robert Meehan, aged 26, a Manchester City supporter, of Nicholas Road, Chorlton, Manchester, had denied assaulting Mr Docherty. He was fined £25 with costs up to £150 and bound over for 12 months.

The judge told Mr Meehan: "I regard you as a soccer hooligan. You are typical of at least your behaviour that night was typical of the behaviour which is occurring all too frequently after football matches and on our trains."

Former manager sent for trial

Mr Tommy Docherty, the former football club manager, was sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court from Bow Street Magistrate's Court yesterday on two charges of perjury. He was granted bail, conditional on his notifying the police of any change of address which would involve leaving the United Kingdom. It is alleged that the perjury was in a High Court action.

Life and leisure: The amateur musicals that can cost £15,000 to stage Where the Desert Song never sounds in vain

By Cyril Bainbridge

The curtain falls tonight on amateur musicals that can cost £15,000 to stage. The *Desert Song* in Harnsey, north London, *The Student Prince* in Harnsey, north London, *Northumberland*, and *Bitter Sweet* in Grimsby.

In some instances, depending on the size and prestige of the production, budgets as high as £15,000 will have been involved and such is the enthusiasm of the amateur actors and actresses, the chances are that by next weekend they will be making preparations for their next production in perhaps six months' time.

There are estimated to be more than 2,000 groups in Britain engaged in amateur musical theatre, and between 5,000 and 10,000 drama groups. Their budgets for a production can vary from about £500 for a drama group in a school or village hall to £5,000 for a medium-sized group playing in a town hall or small theatre, and £15,000 for larger societies who take over a big theatre for a week.

While to perform often presents difficulties, and is the heaviest cost factor. The disappearance of the old Scala Theatre, in London, which was the main centre for larger

amateur productions, left a void that has caused many societies in the London area to change the type of show they stage.

Another difficulty is the loss of cinema, many of which are now split into several smaller units. Hire of a theatre is the largest item; the cost of an orchestra is the second highest.

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association has always encouraged the engagement of professional producers, musical directors, accompanists and choreographers, in order to improve performance standards, but rising costs are increasingly forcing societies to use talented amateur production teams.

Because of that trend the association now organizes summer schools to provide necessary training.

Mr W. Whitebread, a member of the association's council, believes amateur societies should be eligible for grants to engage professional musicians and producers in the way that some choirs obtain grants to engage professional soloists.

Societies, he says, often have to make economies elsewhere in order to engage professional producers; many are also designing and making their own costumes and scenery, which has had an adverse effect on

readers.

What is a success in the amateur theatre can often result in failure on the commercial stage. The reason is the long history of good will and experience of developing local patronage that amateur companies enjoy, sometimes extending over a hundred years.

Among productions *The Merry Widow* lives on triumphantly as the most popular choice. *My Fair Lady* is second, with *Okla!oma!* and *Fiddler on the Roof* well up the lists.

Gilbert and Sullivan, with which many societies came into existence, and the works of Ivor Novello are always in brisk demand. But new works are also being introduced. Mr

Whitebread makes the point that in many areas amateur productions are the only live theatre left, and probably the only chance of a revival for a once popular musical is through an amateur production.

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Today

Sun rises: 5.47 am. Sun sets: 6.47 pm. Moon sets: 7.18 pm. Last quarter: October 30. Lighting out: 9.17 to 6.14 am.

High Water: London Bridge, 3.22 am; 7.56; 3.36 pm; 7.70 am. Avonmouth, 9.04 am; 14.20; 9.28 pm; 14.10 am. Dover, 12.57 am; 12.26 pm; 7.20 am; 7.36 am; 8.10 am; 7.30 pm; Liverpool, 12.32 am; 12.27 pm; 10.10 am. GWR begins 12.20 am.

A ridge of high pressure will move E while a frontal trough will approach W parts later.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, Central S England, Midlands: Early mist in places, mostly dry with bright periods developing; wind NW light becoming S light; max temp 12° to 14° (54° to 57°).

Tomorrow

Sun rises: 5.44 am. Sun sets: 6.44 pm. Moon sets: 6.59 pm. Last quarter: October 30. Lighting out: 5.15 pm to 5.16 am.

High Water: London Bridge, 8.05 am; 7.50; 3.19 pm; 7.70 am. Avonmouth, 8.44 am; 14.10; 9.10 pm; 14.10 am. Dover, 12.57 am; 12.26 pm; 7.20 am; 7.36 am; 8.10 am; 7.30 pm; Liverpool, 12.32 am; 12.27 pm; 10.10 am. GWR begins 12.20 am.

showers with drizzle at first, bright periods; rain from west; later wind NW light to moderate becoming S light; max temp 12° to 14° (54° to 57°).

NW, Central N England, Lake District, E of Mersey: Mostly dry, sunny periods, wind variable light becoming S light; max temp 12° to 14° (54° to 57°).

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 12.7° (55°), min 4.7° (40°). Wind: S, 12 mph. Rain: 7.70 am, 10.10 am, 12.32 am, 12.27 pm, 10.10 am. GWR begins 12.20 am.

Overcast with drizzle at first, bright periods; rain from west; later wind NW light to moderate becoming S light; max temp 12° to 14° (54° to 57°).

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Time to end judge says

From Our Correspondent

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Big cuts
health
service
feared

HOME NEWS

Fox killed in factory by master of hounds

A master of hounds killed a fox that ran into a factory boiler room and then threw it through the capital gate being considered by the Greater London Council after the publication of a special report into the danger of GLC officials.

About a quarter of the nature's nuclear waste passes through London by train on its way to Windscale, Cumbria, for reprocessing.

Growing concern about public safety and the risk of a terrorist attack will lead to talks soon between the GLC and the Atomic Energy Authority, the GLC wants the waste re-routed outside the London area.

It is understood that if talks prove unsatisfactory to the GLC it will take legal action to force the Atomic Energy Authority to re-route the waste.

Mr. Christopher Donnelly, the procurator fiscal, said that the killing was on the last day of the hunting season in March.

Five members of the hunt, including the master, rode up and two hounds entered the boiler room to take off or control the hounds. They asked him several times to leave the boiler room but he refused.

Mr. Donnelly continued: "When a number of children were considerably alarmed and distressed and in at least one case deliberately averted their eyes to refrain from seeing."

Mr. Terence McNally, for the defence, said that the hounds were considerably alarmed and distressed and in at least one case deliberately averted their eyes to refrain from seeing.

Mr. McNally said the incident had been brought to the notice of the hunt committee and the ruling body the Master of Foxhounds Association, to whom it was a matter of concern.

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GLC wants nuclear waste cargoes rerouted

By Michael Horsnell

Urgent moves to ban the transport of nuclear waste through London by train on its way to Windscale, Cumbria, for reprocessing.

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pared a report for the council's Public Services and Safety Committee, found that contingency plans involving the council's emergency services have remained untested during the 18 years that nuclear waste has passed through London.

About the railroads, a fortnight ago through Willesden Junction, north London, and London, including Brentford, Hammersmith, and Willesden, have told the GLC that the risk is too great.

The GLC's nuclear waste is transported in 50-tonne cubic-shaped flasks with an outer skin of steel and 410 thick. Each flask has 200 uranium rods totalling two tonnes. Since 1962, the GLC has been concerned with about 4,500 consignments of radioactive waste, over about 100 million rail miles, with no leaks.

Mr. Stanley Bolton, chairman of the GLC's Public Services and Safety Committee, said yesterday: "Although there have been no accidents on initial reaction, as concern about the transportation of nuclear waste grows, it is that it should not go through the most densely occupied urban part of the country."

Inadequacies in the railway network outside London are expected, however, to lead to early difficulties in talks between the GLC and CEBG.

The CEBG said: "We would be happy to discuss the matter with the GLC, but there are practical considerations when it comes to rerouting. We are confident that the well regulated traffic now in operation is as safe as it can reasonably be made."

The GLC moves come after a by-law banning the use of the railway line through Willesden Junction, north London, and London, including Brentford, Hammersmith, and Willesden, have told the GLC that the risk is too great.

Mr. Bolton said: "Terrorism for part of our consideration. If these flasks were held up at Willesden Junction, it would not be hard for them to be assaulted, given determined people armed with weapons. The transport of nuclear waste to Windscale is worth about £1m a year to British Rail. It said yesterday: "We do not believe there is any justification for the GLC's anxiety. The flasks travel with other freight in an economic way. If the GLC was prepared to pay extra costs for different routing, this could be considered."

Consignment of waste from Bradwell and Sizewell are carried on passenger routes through Essex to Shenfield, then through Romford, Ilford and Stratford. After going via a freight line to Hemstead, Hackney and Dalston, they connect with the north London passenger line and travel through Highbury and Islington, South Hampstead, Queen's Park, and Keilani Green to Willesden Junction. From there they go north through Wembley Central, Harrow, and Wealden, and Watford junction to Willesden.

Waste from Dungeness travels across the Thames by way of South Croydon, Balham and Wandsworth Common, and Shepherd's Bush to Willesden.

Idea of an insurance-based health service attacked by the TUC

By Annabel Ferriman

Health Services Correspondent

The Government's desire to introduce an insurance-based health service would lead to the creation of a new bureaucratic structure to administer the fund and re-compensate parties who had paid fees, a conference was told yesterday.

If the scheme were compulsory, money now raised by taxation would be raised under a different heading on the pay slip, Mr. Peter Jacques, secretary of the TUC Health Services Committee, said.

Mr. Jacques was addressing 200 delegates at a one-day conference held in Cardiff by the Wales TUC as part of the Labour Party's health service week.

A study was being made by the Department of Health and Social Security into the possibility of an insurance-based scheme. But Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, accepted that long-term savings would have to remain funded from direct taxation, Mr. Jacques said.

"A permanent split would be created between the long-term and acute services, to the probable detriment of long-term services," he said.

"There would be difficulty in controlling NHS unit costs as a result of dismantling financial planning systems: compared to other countries with insurance-financed health services, the NHS is highly inefficient, albeit partially because of relatively low wages for NHS staff."

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He said a non-compulsory state health insurance scheme would be given more support because it would simply provide top-up high quality care for the better off; and lead to two levels of health care treatment.

Mr. Terence Parry, vice-chairman of the TUC and general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, told the conference that the main responsibility for funding the NHS rested with the union movement.

Real spending on the NHS had fallen last year for the first time since 1952; and the 0.5 per cent growth rate allowed by the Government for this year would not cover the increased demand for health care from Britain's aging population.

Mr. Parry said: "The Government's desire to introduce an insurance-based health service would lead to the creation of a new bureaucratic structure to administer the fund and re-compensate parties who had paid fees, a conference was told yesterday."

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and there was no reason to vary the target intake of 4,080 by 1983, although "spending on health care might affect reaching that target."

Mr. Jenkin, speaking at the opening of the Department of Postgraduate Medicine at Keele University, said that the Royal Commission on the National Health Service had reported last year that estimates of the number of doctors could produce figures far higher than existing levels.

Such estimates are totally unrealistic because, "the question we have to ask ourselves is, how many doctors are we likely to be able to afford?"

Present assumptions were that the number should expand to between 91,000 and 107,300 by the year 2000, compared with 78,100 in 1978.

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James Edward Brand, aged 27, who became involved in a fight with some skinheads in a public house in London after a Star of David medallion was torn from his neck was acquitted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The jury found Mr. Brand, unemployed, of Pippin Close, Shirley, Croydon, not guilty of murdering Clive Sharp, aged 17, a supermarket trolleyer, of Rutland Road, Blackheath, in May last year. He was also acquitted of manslaughter, and of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He was discharged.

Mr. Wynfor Evans aged 68, the Pwllheli president, who threatened a fast to death in support of a Welsh language channel, was fined £50 with £15 costs by Llandudno magistrates yesterday for having no television licence. He has since bought one.

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WEST EUROPE

German Protestants in uproar at Catholic book's view of Luther

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Oct. 24

For the second time in six weeks the Roman Catholic Church in West Germany has been hit by a storm of protest, this time by the country's Protestants.

The source of the trouble is a little booklet giving a brief history of the Church, rushed out in preparation for the Pope's visit in November. Its description of Martin Luther has been attacked by the Evangelical Church, which represents the Protestant half of West Germany's Christian population, as "a relapse into the clichés of the Counter-Reformation."

The booklet calls Luther a "mighty sorcerer" and says that his Reformation brought no reforms but split the Church. It grants him great talent, but speaks of his "uncontrollable rage and polemics, which made him blind to Catholic truth."

WEST EUROPE

France increases its defence spending by nearly 18 per cent

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 24

The French defence budget for next year of 104,400m francs (£10,440m) was approved last night by the National Assembly. The total is 17.9 per cent higher than last year's figure and the projected spending confirms the increasing importance being placed on nuclear weapons.

This is the fifth consecutive year in which France has agreed to spend a significantly higher amount on defence. This is despite the fact that the administration of the services, so that the amount of money available for the forces themselves has grown even more quickly than the overall budget figure.

Of the total figure, one-third is for strategic and tactical nuclear weapons. It is to be spent on modernizing the nuclear submarine fleet which is being armed with the M45 multiple-warhead air-to-ground missile which is to equip the Mirage 2000 from 1983.

No firm decision has yet been taken on a French neutron bomb. M. J. Le Theule, the Minister of Defence, confirmed

that technically it was now possible for France to build one, but that, even if the decision to go ahead was taken, the bomb would represent only part of France's panoply of atomic deterrent weapons.

The Army's budget is increased by 30 per cent, which will enable it to modernize its armoured divisions, with orders for tanks, guns and armoured helicopters coming early next year.

The Navy, which has felt itself the poor relation of the services in recent years, is being given money to build a fourth submarine, a corvette, a mine-sweeper and two patrol vessels while a new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is scheduled to be laid down in 1983.

The Air Force is also being given a 22 per cent budget increase to renew its fighter squadrons with 22 Mirage 2000 and 21 Mirage F1.

Summing up the debate, M. Le Theule said that the serious character of the budget had not been questioned by any member of the Assembly. That had shown there was a need in the present international situation to give France the means to be credible when it talked of its deterrent force.

Lord Carrington insists on need for arms control

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

At a time when the Cabinet is under attack for cutting defence spending, Lord Carrington said yesterday that the Government sees no alternative but to continue to maintain the forces and weapons necessary for deterrence.

"Deterrence is the best way of ensuring that our weapons will never be used," he said. The need for arms control was the main theme of a speech Lord Carrington delivered to the United Nations Association yesterday to mark the 30th anniversary of the United Nations.

In the context of East-West relations, Lord Carrington said there could be no question of abandoning arms control. "What result of East-West relations, the painstaking search for areas of agreement can indeed must — go on," he said.

But he said that "high-sounding declarations and well-intentioned gestures in arms control to improve the political atmosphere would do more harm than good. Still less effective, he said, was a policy of 'unilateralism'."

"Nobody would be happier than I to abandon nuclear weapons, if I believed that by doing so I would really be improving the prospects for lasting

peace," Lord Carrington said. But he did not believe this. Experience did not suggest the Russians would respond, except to exploit our subsequent weakness.

Emphasizing that arms control could not, on its own, solve defence problems, Lord Carrington said: "We must stick firmly to our commitment to base United States cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe from 1983." To abandon that commitment would undermine American efforts to reach a satisfactory agreement with the Russians, he said.

On the question of global disarmament, Lord Carrington said he saw no scope for trying to start with sweeping measures. The best hope for progress was by pressing forward in the suit of individual, specific measures.

Speaking of the difficulties of arms control, he said the Russians "decline a lot" but initiated little of substance. He singled out the need for a comprehensive test ban treaty, comprehensive support for an international convention banning chemical weapons.

Lord Carrington spoke of the need for measures to build confidence in the framework of a European conference. The review meeting in Madrid next month, he said, provided an opportunity to promote measures with a more direct military impact.

EEC again sells barley to Russia

From Michael Horusby
Brussels, Oct 24

The EEC is to resume sales of barley to the Soviet Union after a nine-month break following the Russian military intervention in Afghanistan, it was announced here today.

Between now and the end of next June tenders will be considered for the export of up to 300,000 metric tonnes to Moscow, mainly as feed for animals.

The view of the majority of member states is that such a volume of exports would be in line with the traditional level of sales to the Soviet Union in recent years.

Last January the Nine agreed to support the partial American embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union by holding their own exports to near zero levels and not making any new sales.

Britain was among the minority which opposed this week's decision on the grounds that the average sale to the Russians over the past three years was only about 200,000 tonnes.

The EEC produced more than 40 million tonnes of barley this year, much of which has had to be taken off the market and stored because of low internal demands. Most other world producers are suffering from low harvests, and so the EEC is alone in having substantial quantities available for export. French farmers have been pressing for the resumption of sales to the Russians.

Doubts over blast school gas fixtures

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, Oct 24

An estimated 15,000 mourners jammed the cemetery of the mining town of Ormaiztegui for the funeral of 48 children and three adults who yesterday died in a gas explosion at a local elementary school.

The Civic Association of Ormaiztegui disclosed that some time before the explosion the parent-teachers association of the stricken school had made a formal complaint about the installation of gas lines and about the location of the propane gas storage tank near classrooms.

In a statement the association also criticized the bad conditions in which many of our teachers were working. The roof fell in at another school nearby and the authorities had to transfer its pupils to the Ormaiztegui school just before the disaster.

A spokesman for the gas monopoly said that installations of gas lines and connections at the school did not conform to recommended safety precautions and had been made without the company's consent.

Thatcher visit to Bonn

Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will be the guests of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn, on November 16-17, in the regular series of Anglo-German summit meetings, it was announced yesterday.

French nuclear technicians held by action group

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 24

Five technicians carrying out preliminary studies on the site of what is planned to be the biggest nuclear power station in Europe, at Flamanville in Brittany, were taken prisoner last night by 30 local people, who have formed a committee to stop the project.

The technicians were made to show their identity papers, the film was removed from their cameras and their cars were searched. After being held for three hours, they were allowed to leave the area.

Madame Annie Carval, president of the local anti-nuclear committee, said afterwards that the residents of the area intended to "treat other"

visitors in a similar fashion. The Government has yet to give final approval to the project, after a hotly contested planning inquiry.

Delivery of the fourth load of nuclear waste to the French reprocessing plant at La Hague, near Cherbourg, went ahead smoothly early today—the first time this has been possible without angry demonstrations by anti-nuclear groups.

The British ship Pacific Swan unloaded eight containers of nuclear waste soon after docking at the Cherbourg quay which had been rigged as a precaution by riot police.

Half of the containers were taken on to the reprocessing plant by road and the others were loaded on to a specially designed train.

OVERSEAS

Concessions by Israel ruled out for Cairo visit

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Oct 24

On the eve of the departure of President Yitzhak Navon for the first visit to Egypt by an Israeli head of state, Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, today ruled out any notion of compromise on the key issues dividing the two governments in the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy.

Speaking to an audience of British Jews, Mr. Begin promised that Israel would continue to oppose granting legislative executive or judicial powers to the projected Palestinian Council. To do so, he claimed, would violate the Camp David accords and a Palestinian state in all but name. Observers noted that all but name of such powers remains the central plank of Egypt's negotiating position.

The Prime Minister also emphasized that it was "unthinkable and unacceptable" that Israel would agree to the Egyptian proposal for the Palestinian Council to control security.

Mr. Begin pointed out that Israel would insist on leaving some of its troops positioned in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Granting security powers to the projected council, he said, would effectively allow the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, whose method is genocide.

There was speculation that the timing of Mr. Begin's remarks could sour the atmosphere for the historic visit of President Navon, his wife Ofra, and his entourage of 19 prominent Israelis, including a politician from each of the two main political camps.

Due to begin tomorrow, the five-day visit is being made at the personal invitation of President Sadat.

President Navon, a fluent Arabic speaker, is regarded by many Egyptians as the most approachable Israeli leader.

Appeal to UN: Lebanon complained to the United Nations Security Council today about Israel's policy of pre-emptive strikes and called on the organization to deal with the problem.

Dr. Selim al-Hoss, the Lebanese Prime Minister, said in Beirut that Israel had used American-made aircraft in its latest attack on Lebanon. He urged Washington to take practical measures to halt Israeli "aggression."

Syria claims end of outlawed Muslims but propaganda backfires

From Richard Owen
Damascus, Oct 24

There are "daily incidents" in Syria involving political violence, but the Government is winning the battle against its main opponent, the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. So says Mr. Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Minister of Information, who is a member of the ruling Baath Party and one of the youngest ministers in the Syrian Cabinet.

On the wall of his office hangs a large print depicting an Arab shepherd driving his flock down a leafy lane; but what Mr. Iskander has to say is far from pastoral. The fundamentalist Brotherhood, he said, is a "cancer" of Syrian politics by the minority Alawite sect to which President Hafez Assad himself belongs.

But its opposition takes a violent form, and the Syrian authorities have responded with violence. "The Muslim Brothers," Mr. Iskander says, "are either behind bars or in their graves. The rest are insignificant, and are being hunted down."

The security forces have certainly had success in finding Brotherhood hideouts and "safe houses" and in giving in the press and even shown on television, complete with pictures of dead terrorists lying on the floor, their captured Kalashnikov rifles and hand guns stacked against the wall.

On the other hand the nationwide campaign over the past month or two has also had the effect of showing just how widespread and well-organized the Brotherhood must be. It is difficult to gauge the extent of its support among the population at large.

The Government says it has none, or very little, and is instigated by outside forces, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan. It is certainly true that most Syrians probably do not share the Brotherhood's fundamentalism, even though Sunni Muslims are in the majority in Syria.

But the Brotherhood do articulate late resentment against the regime. Earlier this year, 1,000 Brothers were prevailed upon to renounce their membership in a move which backfired against the authorities, since it showed that the overall number involved must be greater than had previously been thought.

It is even more difficult to establish how many of the "incidents" admitted by the Government are significant. Last year there were large scale massacres in Aleppo in the north and Latakia on the coast.

Alloppo, Syria's second largest city, is an especially troublesome area for the security forces. Journalists are not always allowed to report there, and there was a reprisal raid in April after the murder of some officials, and another in August in which about 80 people are said to have died.

One is heavily guarded, especially the old citadel and the sports stadium, and tanks ring the perimeter, their guns pointing inward. In Latakia, further south, a massacre at the prison is said to have taken place in June, with the loss of about 400 lives.

Other incidents include a recent reprisal raid in Hama in which 14 died, and the assassination of several Soviet advisers, not because Russians are unpopular but because they are identified with the regime. One is said to have died last week on the coast road between Tartous and Latakia.

The government refuses to confirm or deny these incidents although in Syria are both persistent and true. It is the security forces are much in evidence at roadblocks on the approaches to important towns, at crossroads, and in residential districts. They include the police, the army, various units of "special forces" in battle dress, the military police and plain clothes intelligence squads.



Holy warriors: Armed mullahs parade under arms at Tehran university during the Friday prayer meeting.

Armed guards calm petrol fever as rationing bites in Tehran

From Francis Curran
Tehran, Oct 24

After a month of hostilities far fewer in Tehran has fallen off.

The solemnity of the first air raid warnings has given way to a certain complacency. The capital has slowly become accustomed to black-out regulations, petrol rationing and public funerals for the war dead.

In certain parts of the city, revolutionary committees have started distributing domestic fuel from door to door. Long queues form outside the few remaining fuel retailers at a time when a cold autumn nip is being felt. Coal merchants are also doing well.

Long lines of cars mark the approaches to every petrol station guarded by armed police and members of the local militia.

One has banned the use of private cars for two weeks last month before petrol rationing was introduced.

Tehran's huge traffic jams disappeared during that fortnight. Traffic has since picked up, but the day at least, streets remain deserted at night.

Private cars are now entitled to 30 litres (6.6 gallons) of petrol a month, commercial vehicles to 25 litres a day and taxis to 25 a day. This has encouraged a black market, with some taxi drivers selling their petrol at 10 times the official price.

A young revolutionary committee guard armed with a sub-machine gun today punched car registration papers at the entrance to a filling station. One hole per month per 30 litres, he said.

A customer, his card already punched for this month, swore on a pocket-sized Koran and on his wife's honour that he was not a garage owner to collect car tyres and had not yet filled up his tank for the month.

After much haggling he was allowed his 30 litres but, for good measure, the guard punched his card, a second time.

While taxi drivers are doing brisk business, many car dealers look like going out of business.

One car dealer said he had cut by a third the price of his large petrol-guzzling American cars but had increased the price of the more economical European cars. He had also

started to sell motor bicycles, but only had four in stock and little prospect of obtaining any more.

On the other side of the street, a bicycle shop had sold out of adult-size models. Only a few children's bicycles remained. The shopkeeper, who said now "imported his machines from Japan, thought it unlikely he could import any more.

While the cost of basic foodstuffs has increased—rice, since the war—there is no rationing except for rice and vegetable oil, which even before the war were hard to obtain.

The distribution of ration cards for fuel, food, and tobacco has started. The radio keeps up its broadcasts of military and revolutionary music, while television shows clips of fighting on the front and documentaries illustrating the strength of the Iranian Army on land, at sea, and in the air.

The war appears to have boosted religious fervour. Crowds have markedly increased at the Friday prayer meetings in the capital—Agence France-Presse.

UN debate raises hope for hostages

From Michael Leapman
New York, Oct 24

The progress of the Security Council debate on the Iraq war is helping to fuel speculation in Beirut that American hostages in Iran might be released soon. Last night Mr. Donald McHenry, the United States representative at the United Nations, made a speech to the council in which he appeared to side with Iraq.

All of us must be opposed to the dismemberment of Iran. The United States believes that the cohesion and stability of Iran is in the interests of stability and prosperity in the region.

While American officials do not admit to any connection between Mr. McHenry's statement and the fate of the hostages, it is hard to believe that the Secretary of State will not have some effect on Iran's attitude towards their release.

Indeed, Mr. Ali Shams Ardekani, the senior Iranian delegate at the United Nations, said as much in his remarks to the council. He said that if the council came to a favourable decision on the war, it may prove its worthiness to be headed on other issues. The Security Council has called for the release of the hostages.

The Americans are working behind the scenes to try to get a resolution through the council calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran.

Deal rejected: In Tehran today Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a member of Iran's Higher Defence Council, rejected any deal involving the release of the hostages in exchange for spare parts for American-supplied weapons. — Agence France-Presse.

The Polish government has already deeply involved in the complex task of trying to force through last year's denationalisation reforms which prepared the new five-year plan.

Deputy Premier Mr. Valentin Malawski, Second Secretary of the Communist Party Committee for Moscow, was appointed Soviet Deputy Prime Minister yesterday. Moscow radio said—Agence France-Presse.

Mr Bush moulds voters into TV bit players

From Patrick Brogan
Chicago, Oct 24

Campaigning in an American presidential election is everywhere. It is done on television, in the newspapers, in the radio, in the streets, in the homes. It is everywhere. It is everywhere. It is everywhere.

The highest form of the art this year is the "people's press conference" as practiced by President Carter and Mr. George Bush, Vice-President Mondale, during their public meetings and Mr. Ronald Reagan gives half-hour lectures into the cameras. He is, after all, the professional's professional.

The "people's press conferences" give the candidate who is not a brilliant public speaker, nor a master of the television set, a perfect forum to show himself at his best. The show is developed out of the New England town meeting, used in primaries in New Hampshire in the early weeks of presidential campaigns. Mr. Carter has had many town meetings in the past four years and is now the complete master of the form.

Mr. Bush, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, has been staging frequent people's press conferences in the past two months. He, too, discovered their uses during the long grind down the primary road, and became quite good at it.

Last night, he held one in Chicago. He had set them up earlier, waiting for the magic moment of 6.30 pm when the cameras started to roll and the fame-fighting through the "crowd" from the back of the hall assembled, somewhere that can be guaranteed to produce a large majority of friendly people, and the candidate gets them to ask him questions.

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Mr Brezhnev pays Mr Kosygin a tribute

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Oct 24

President Brezhnev today publicly thanked Mr. Alexei Kosygin, who retired yesterday after 16 years as Soviet Prime Minister, for his "considerable and fruitful work over many years."

A brief announcement by Tass said the Soviet leader expressed his "cordial gratitude" to Mr. Kosygin on behalf of the Communist Party's ruling Politburo, the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers.

The message, which Mr. Kosygin had been carried out in high posts in the party and the Soviet Government.

There was no indication when the message was sent to Mr. Kosygin, who is still at home after serious heart trouble. Many people in Moscow were surprised yesterday that no word of tribute was paid to the most important man in the country after President Brezhnev at the Supreme Soviet session where his resignation as Prime Minister was announced.

The Soviet press this morning carried the news only in a four-line official announcement from the Kremlin. There were no photographs of Mr. Kosygin, and no word of thanks from President Brezhnev or any of his colleagues.

This singular omission suggested at first that the Soviet leadership might be preparing to lay the blame for the disappointing economic results on Mr. Kosygin's shoulders.

This seems unlikely, however, since it would associate Mr. Nikolai Mikheyev, Mr. Kosygin's successor, with the blame. Mr. Mikheyev's departure seems to have been timed to enable him to stay on, formally at least, as a member of the Politburo, at least until a Central Committee meeting can accept his resignation—a clear sign that he is not going to resign.

Nevertheless, the Russians have still never quite learnt how to allow a senior politician to retire with honour. Even Mr. Anastas Mikheyev, who was retired under something of a cloud soon after the removal of Mr. Khrushchev from office, and the official obituary of him last year, was remarkably brief and ungenerous.

Among ordinary Russians today there is a certain sadness at Mr. Kosygin's departure, as he had built up a reputation for modesty, straightforwardness, and keen intelligence. Mr. Mikheyev, however, is a picture of every newspaper today, has little popular following and is thought by all to be unlikely to hold the office for long, in view of his age.

The Politburo appears to have deliberately picked a man already deeply involved in the complex task of trying to force through last year's denationalisation reforms which prepared the new five-year plan.

Deputy Premier Mr. Valentin Malawski, Second Secretary of the Communist Party Committee for Moscow, was appointed Soviet Deputy Prime Minister yesterday. Moscow radio said—Agence France-Presse.

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California ready to resume executions after 13 years

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Oct 24

The California Supreme Court upheld a death penalty conviction yesterday of a 22-year-old man accused of killing two elderly women and paving the way for the return of capital punishment in the state.

The court, by a four-three majority, gave the state the go-ahead to execute Earl Lloyd Jackson in the San Quentin gas chamber. Aaron Mitchell was the last person put to death in California in 1967. There are 42 other men in San Quentin's death row.

Unless the Federal Supreme Court rules otherwise, Mr. Jackson will die for killing the two women during robberies that took place in 1977.

Mr. Jackson's lawyer, who said he was "shocked beyond belief" is to petition for a rehearing.

California's Chief Justice, Rose Bird, said in a written dissent: "Today the court sends to his death an impoverished, illiterate and possibly retarded black youth by affirming a judgment that this court would not hesitate to reverse if any other offence were involved."

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Small seats at cost price to holders of valid season tickets. When telephoning use prefix 01 only. Outside London Metropolitan Area.

ALSO ON PAGE 12

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

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Management: 1885 & TILLEY

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Mozart: Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 483

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 in B minor, Op. 23

PAUL TORTELIER

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25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

In concert du Maurier and Philharmonia

MUSIC DIRECTOR: RICCARDO MUTI

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts

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Beethoven: Violin Concerto

ITZHAK PERLMAN

Brahms: Symphony No. 4

SOLD OUT

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Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2

STEPHEN BISHOP-KOVACEVICH

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 3 November at 8 p.m.

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DAVID ATHERTON

HOLST: The Planets

STRAVINSKY: Fireworks

GERHARD: Symphony No. 1

BBC Sings

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

HALLE ORCHESTRA

JAMES LOUGHRAN/NOBUKO IMAI

WALTON: Comedy Overture 'Scapino'

Viola Concerto

ELGAR: Symphony No. 1 in A flat

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER at 8

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER at 3.15 p.m.

PAUL TORTELIER

MARIA DE LA PAU piano

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER at 8 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Trevor Ashworth conducts

DANIEL BARENBOIM

GOETTER: Sinfonia

World premiere of a new work commissioned by the ECO & MS with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain

BRITTEN: Variations on a theme of Frank Bridge

MOZART: Piano Concerto in C minor, K. 491

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: The Royal Festival Hall

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

RAYMOND GURRAY presents

TOMORROW at 7.15

A Night in VIENNA

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: MARCUS DODS ANDREW BAIGH piano

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

VAN WALSUM MANAGEMENT presents

ALLEGRI STRING QUARTET

YOURI EGOROV piano

Tuesday next 28 October at 7.45 a.m.

Haydn: Op. 76 No. 3, 'The Fifth'

Brahms: Piano Concerto

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

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HAROLD HOLT LIMITED presents

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER at 3

MICHAEL ROLL

SCHUMANN

Clara Schumann: Variations on 'Die Forelle' in G. Op. 17

BEETHOVEN

Andante: Sonata in E minor (Op. 10, No. 5)

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

Saturday, 22nd November, 7.45 p.m.

LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by Capital Radio

BACH CANTATA 105 MOZART REQUIEM

Felicity Lott Anthony Rolfe Johnson

Claire Powell Willard White

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Conductor: NICHOLAS KRAEMER

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

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ENGLISH TASKIN PLAYERS, Carol Kaine & John Wilton violins

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN CONCERT

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

SEGOVIA

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

Conductor: HARRY BLECH

Mozart: Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 483

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 in B minor, Op. 23

PAUL TORTELIER

A British Entertainments Society

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: HAROLD HOLT LTD.

In concert du Maurier and Philharmonia

MUSIC DIRECTOR: RICCARDO MUTI

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts

Friday next 31 October at 8

Beethoven: Violin Concerto

ITZHAK PERLMAN

Brahms: Symphony No. 4

SOLD OUT

Sunday 2 November at 3.15

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2

STEPHEN BISHOP-KOVACEVICH

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4

25.20, 23.30, 21.40, 19.50, 18.00 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

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Wednesday 3 November at 8 p.m.

50th Anniversary Season

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

DAVID ATHERTON

HOLST: The Planets

STRAVINSKY: Fireworks

GERHARD: Symphony No. 1

BBC Sings

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Manager: William Lye

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RADIO

TELEVISION

TELEVISION

6.00 Tennis; 6.00 Rugby Union
 Sports Report; 6.05 Europe
 7.02 Beat the Record; 7.30 E
 Band Special; 8.02 Cliff Richards
 10.02 Hilversum Greetings Radio
 11.02 Sports Desk; 11.10 Boh K
 hex; 2.02 am-6.00 You and I
 Night and the Music.†

Radio 1
 5.00 am Ac Radio 2; 7.03 Pla
 ground; 8.00 Tn Blackburn
 10.00 Steve Wright; 1.00 pm
 2.00 State; 2.20 A King in No
 York; 2.05 Paul Gambaccini
 4.00 Rock on Saturday; 7.3
 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 a
 With Radio 2; 1.00 p.m. With
 Radio 1; 7.30-6.00 am With Radio

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Radio 2

6.00 am News, weather, 6.02 Sam
on Sunday, 7.30 Changing
Seasons, 8.03 David Jacoby, 10.02
Steve Jones, 1.27 mp The Choice
Is Yours, 1.32 Keep It Maclean,
2.01 Benny Green, 3.04 Country
Style, 3.32 Alan Dell, 4.32 Simp
something Simple, 4.52 Tony
Best, 6.02 Charlie Chester, 7.02
Sue, 7.59 Suer, 7.56 Marrying
Walzing, 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour,
9.02 Your 100 Best Times, 10.02
Spot the World, 10.30 Aloud
Sue's American Collection (3),
11.02 Sports Desk, 11.05 Northing
Flying 1979, 12.05 am Bob Kil
ley, 12.05 am Sue and the Night
and the Music

Radio 1

8.00 am Tony Blackburn, 10.00
Noel Edmonds, 1.00 pm Jimmy
Savile, 3.02 Sean B, 5.02 Top
40, 7.02 25 Years of Rock, 19.57
8.00 Sounds of Jazz, 2.00 Close
VHT RADIOS 1 AND 2, 5.00 am
Radio 1, 10.50 am With Radio 2

World Service

BBC World Service can be heard in
the following areas at the following times
(GMT, GMT+1) at the following times
12.00 am News, 7.00 World News,
7.30 News, 8.00 News, 8.30 News,
9.00 News, 9.30 News, 10.00 News,
10.30 News, 11.00 News, 11.30 News,
12.00 News, 12.30 News, 1.00 News,
1.30 News, 2.00 News, 2.30 News,
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4.30 News, 5.00 News, 5.3

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Chess

Great shades of grey

LA: ام القضا

Sportsview

Those vital and so elusive goals

Long before the effect of unemployment was seen in football attendances it was obvious that the national sport could not continue to decline without those responsible taking stock and arriving at definite conclusions. The fact that a seminar of league club chairmen is being held in Solihull tomorrow is recognition of the dangers, but identification has always been easier than implementation.

During the last decade, when football lost 20 per cent of its spectators, the Football League and the Football Association drew conclusions about the future. Few of the more progressive proposals survived annual meetings, and it has to be borne in mind that any proposals put forward this weekend will face the same hurdles, although at least there is common recognition of a crisis that does not only afflict the small professional clubs.

Although there is good management and loyalty left in football, there is much evidence to support those who blame the game's financial problems and its unsavoury image on high transfer fees, greed amongst players and managers, and the lack of skilful performers. These are serious matters that will not be solved over a long weekend.

The possibility of limiting transfer fees has been discussed for years. The Professional Footballers' Association favour a formula governed by players' age, salary and standing in his club, but the Football League Secretaries, Managers and Coaches Association believe the transfer system is "vital to the future of football".

The secretary in their document "Soccer: The Fight for Survival" says that the disappearance of transfer fees would "very quickly mean the end of the Football League as we know it today". They say that the selling of players by small clubs is lifeblood but accept that the future of the system should be reviewed.

For the moment, the economic climate and lack of outstanding players weigh against the argument that slight alterations to the rules and the removal of professionalism would revive attendances and lift the financial threats. This is a time of optimism on which the league survived for so long, with the less profitable clubs believing that sooner or later they would achieve success by the sale of some new "star".

Today clubs require something more than hope. Altering the points system to encourage goalkeeping, possibly with three points for a win, is one of the more drastic suggestions that will win considerable support. Of course the public want to see more goals and less defensive football and a trial period is desirable, but this should not confuse the primary essential issue which is the lack of basic skills that restricts international progress. England's failure at this level has certainly not helped club attendances.

Other small alterations could improve the game's appeal. Referees should have a consistent approach to petty irritations. Players should not be allowed to encroach at free-kicks; time wasting should not be tolerated, and dissent punished with instant dismissal. There is a proposal to abandon the yellow and red cards. Better to use the red one more often, but consistently. Any proposals for basic alterations to the rules of play should be treated with great care, especially if they involve falling out of line with the international body (FIFA).

If the American 35-yard offside rule has nothing to offer the British game, the promoters from that country may prefer some useful reforms on prevention and spectator comfort. No doubt Jimmy Hill, who has interests on both sides of the Atlantic and has shown progressive ideas at Coventry City, would make stimulating remarks, but I hope he does not sway opinion against demands to reduce the amount of televised football.

If there is too much football, there is certainly too much television for too little financial return. The unsigned contract between the Football League and the television companies should be signed on the basis of the amount of televised football at least until the problems of sponsored names on shirts is resolved.

Sponsorship and television are closely linked, especially for the leading clubs who have found themselves unable to offer sponsors full value for money because television does not allow names on shirts. Obviously sponsors have taken an interest in the policy of the television companies. For the time being, if ever again, clubs cannot anticipate the return of the missing millions; so money from other sources is essential.

Those who would have the figures best reduced will find strong opposition. It is a fact of football life that when a club loses in a cup competition "friendly" matches are soon arranged to fill vacant dates and alleviate some of the financial losses. A reduction in the number of competitive games would not automatically reduce the number of games played.

Only by increased sponsorship, with all of the "soul-searching" involved, will clubs be able to afford to play fewer games.

Norman Fox
Football correspondent

Putting the Tories on the defensive

Fred Emery

Just when the Conservatives are relishing settling in their Commons benches on Monday to enjoy the final of the Labour leadership battle, they have been rudely reawakened to the realities of governing. Whoever leaked the defence cuts memo has a cruelly deft sense of timing; they have given the Tory right wing a weekend to get up steam in defence of defence before storming back for the resumption.

If the Government, to get interest rates down, is going to cut defence, it is going to cut expenditure—and ministerial meetings are now about little else—then every other spending department has to give an enormous amount of defence is to be expected.

The Treasury's view is that it cannot be exempt; so is Mr Thatcher's, for all her boldness on defence. But the Tories fought the election on an increase in defence. On the Tory rig, there is already talk of "betrayal" not merely of the acceptance of the Treasury's view, but of the commitment to NATO to increase defence spending in real terms.

Shortly, it could be someone rather than something who has to give. It is sometimes overlooked that the Cabinet came close to its first resignation on this issue last winter when Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, let it be known to colleagues that he was prepared to go that far. In the event it was not necessary. But now that the crisis has reappeared who can say? If he should again prevail and fend off the cuts, who in the Treasury would feel rebuffed?

Mr John Biffen, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and man in charge of the axe, would in that event have to chop the money out of other departments. And a mighty row is already under way. Not, let it be hastily said,

that Mr Biffen is showing any signs of resigning; always fortially he has resided in the past to note that it is the dissenters among his colleagues who choose not to avail themselves of that option, which by implication is always open to them.

The reminder, as the Commons reassesses, is that there is plenty more here than his own entrails for Opposition to get their teeth into. Not to speak of the black economic situation. And it happens that there is excellent opportunity for bravura despatch box performances by both the main contenders, Mr Denis Healey and Mr Michael Foot before the party's MPs have to make their choice.

Mr Foot will be deputizing against the Prime Minister at Question Time. And Mr Denis Healey, usually a far more brutal coherent and focused attacker than Mr Foot, will open the Opposition's debate on Wednesday which criticizes the Government over the economy and rising unemployment. With Mr Foot wounding up, this will be the set piece occasion for comparison of the Parliamentary talents—which MPs and opinion in the country rightly value.

By that time, however, the battle will have been fought and the result will have to wait for the result of the first ballot until November 4. MPs get their papers next week and many are expected to make up their minds before going home next weekend. Parliamentary performance will affect the choice only if one of the two made a terrible hash of it, which is unlikely. Assessing what it is that makes MPs minds up is exceedingly complicated, to say the least.

MPs get to know each other at fairly close quarters; only 39 Labour MPs

are new entrants since last year's election. But against the familiarity is the contempt that comes of ministerial experience. Mr Healey's five years at the Treasury out of the past six and a half were not the best time or place to make friends; even if he had been minded to do so.

In addition to personal preference ideology has a part to play, but only a part. What perhaps is most important for this very peculiar electorate is that they themselves are, mostly, aware of what it takes to get elected, and sensitive to what goes with getting elected.

So most, not all, would want to feel they are backing the winner, at least on second ballot; second, they might assess which of the candidates they would be happiest to have campaign for them in their constituency in a very tight election; and third, and not dishonourable, what would be the chances of getting jobs, come victory—not Cabinet posts but any among the plethora of posts in junior ministries and the whip offices.

With MPs still at home these past weeks it has been difficult even for the contenders to check out their strength. "It is difficult to look a man in the eye on the phone," one said. It has been difficult too, to check how determined are MPs to defend the PLP's prerogatives to elect the leader.

This past week they have seen not only the party's National Executive Committee attempting to reintroduce an electoral college before next January's special conference, but the summons by the Bannister Labour Coordinating Committee to "insist" that MPs bring their ballot papers to their constituency party management committees.

One thing is often forgotten in all the assumption that an electoral college is

Michelangelo's genius, spiders and all

You could say that Michelangelo's frescoes on the ceiling and walls of the Sistine Chapel, which is not open to the public, are the best-known paintings of western art. From God leaning forward with the touch of life for Adam languid on his barren back to the resplendent first mother reaching up for the apple, and on to the inexplicable retreats for microbes prepared by Michelangelo in Moses's beard, the images have profoundly influenced the way we look at the world, art, religion and, especially, man.

The paradox is that we seldom get to look at the originals. For one thing, one has to make the tedious voyage to Rome. For another, one is liable to be trampled as insensible as Adam before his Creation by devout tourists in the Sistine Chapel. And for another, squinting up at the majestic sweep of paintings, more than 60 feet above one's head, is likely to give one a crick in the neck, a contact lens at the back of the eye, and a dim and distracted view.

The frescoes of the ancestors of Christ on the lunette and the lower part of the Last Judgement are invisible from the ground for anyone but an artistic giraffe.

Getting the best view

A prodigious new publication is about to give those rich enough to afford it the best view of the paintings since Michelangelo lay on his back on the scaffolding just below the vault painting last and furiously in his own act of creation. It consists of two tomes of 400 colour plates of the Vatican frescoes, 100 of them of the same size as their originals. They show in a range of sizes and detail the various narrative histories and cast of thousands including sibyls on the vault, and the Last Judgement on the walls of the Sistine

Chapel, and the conversion of St Paul and the martyrdom of St Peter in the Pauline Chapel, which is not open to the public. It has been done, naturally in these printing days, by the Japanese. They spent six months and 250,000 dollars calling in the pictures from scaffolding. They invented a remotely controlled magnetic release system to avoid the slightest tremor from a human photographer. Then they rebuilt the scaffolding so that painting specialists from Japan could check the colour reproduction against the originals.

The result is the most comprehensive and accurate record of the fast fading frescoes ever made. It shows the brush of Michelangelo's brush, the traces of his palette, past restorations, cracks, varnishing, and alterations (the lock-plates on the nudes in the Last Judgement put there by Daniele da Volterra for prudish Paul IV) far more clearly than can be seen from the ground. Art critics are already rewriting their interpretation of the frescoes from this new Michelangelo's eye view.

The master photographer was Takashi Okamura, who has specialized in photographing paintings, particularly in Italy, for 30 years. He is an expert rock-climber. He needs to be in his mystery. His diary of his work in the Sistine Chapel is a voyage of discovery in itself.

"We begin with the face of Eve, and during the photographing I noticed something strange. There is a pink, delta-shaped area in Eve's face. At some time (probably after the turn of this century), in order to preserve the frescoes, transparent varnish was applied over the entire fresco. This delta area is where the varnish was not applied and therefore the colour of this area is close to the original, whereas the rest was made darker because of

later changes in the varnish."

"I can reach the wall, just by stretching my hand. 470 years ago Michelangelo was at this very position. Being as close as 50 centimetres to the ceiling, we can no longer see the Genesis on the ceiling with our eyes. Only less than one square metre of mural, which I am going to photograph, exists over my head. Now that I am this close, I can see even the small grass of Michelangelo's brush, the trace of his brush at the time of the repair, any small chips and peeling. I can even see thin spider's webs. Even being in this uncomfortable position, I wondered what the spiders here lived on such a foolish thought came up."

Only one review copy

These books are thumping big (21 inches by 17), expensive, produced, and expensive: £1,850 for the set. They include a third volume of commentary by Professor André Chastel, translated woodenly into English. The books are publishing a limited edition of 100 of them for the United Kingdom and Ireland on Monday. I cover one. But to avoid insinuations of interest, I declare that only one review copy has been given to the Poppy.

Those who value such reproductions of great art more than a nasty little new car should order their copies from Times Books, 16 Golden Square, London W1. If you prefer to carry them, your arms would have stretched to your ankles before you were out of Soho. They show the supreme sweep of some of the greatest painting yet done in this world.

Philip Howard



The photographer Takashi Okamura at work in the Sistine Chapel

A long way on from Charing Cross Road

Early in October, 1949, the American *Saturday Review* of Literature carried an advertisement for a London bookshop, selling seven hard-out print books. It was seen by a penniless young woman in New York who, loving books and learning to write plays, sent them a list of her "most pressing problems".

With this began a 20-year literary affair between Helene Hanft and Marks & Co and a process of pleasurable self-education that was acutely and touchingly captured in a book that has for title the shop's address: 84 Charing Cross Road.

The book was composed entirely of letters and mapped a growing pattern of friendship as Helene Hanft forced the stiff British replies into the ordinary responses of ordinary people and later into the confidences of intimates. It had a remarkable effect on those who read it. Its publication brought her an enormous mail, which 10 years later has scarcely diminished, and many new acquaintances.

Edward Gregson is a young British composer whose works for brass band in particular are internationally known but who, for the past four years, has concentrated on orchestral compositions.

Recently, however, he returned to the brass band scene for what he describes as "one of the most difficult challenges that I have had to face".

The piece he has written, *Festive Music for Brass Band*, is a test piece with a difference. It will be performed, not as his works usually are by a championship band, but by a group of actors and actresses whose musical ability, at any rate so far, has not been their chief accomplishment.

His task has been to write a piece of music which, to the audience, appears to be difficult, yet is not too demanding of the inexperienced players. The test piece was commissioned for a new play by Peter Buckman

particularly when she came to London for the first time soon after it appeared here.

There was nothing the readers of this small, humorous collection of letters would not do for the woman who had sparked off the correspondence. They drove her everywhere, they invited her to dinner, they took her to see Oxford and Cambridge, they fed her on lobster and strawberries and cream.

One fan was a man who worked at Heathrow. He saw her on and off her aircraft; another was a researcher at the television company that filmed *84 Charing Cross Road*; a third was a book collector. Helene Hanft lent the programme restored, the leather heated and stretched, the gold stamp cleaned, by the Queen's bookbinder. A third was Norman, the wife of Frank Doel, a man who found her books for her at Marks & Co and whose

death marks the end of the letters.

In the USA both *84 Charing Cross Road* and its sequel, *The Duchess of Bloomsbury Street*, are still in print. Before Helene Hanft's recent arrival in London for the publication of another book, *Underfoot in Show Business*, fans were already telephoning the BBC, for whom she does a five-minute monthly letter what the series for *Woman's Hour* to find the date of her arrival. Nora died this summer, and Joyce Grenfell, another friend from her first visit, is also dead, but the others, as well as whole new generation of people, continue to sense that there is something special in the relationship. This literary domesticity seems to reduce the world in size.

Helene Hanft, now in her late sixties, is a thin, first-looking woman with a great deal of energy and self-mock-

and gradually improve through the play.

At auditions some actors obviously thought that scoring musical test and turned up without an instrument. David Honeybell, the musical supervisor, soon found a snare instrument on which to test them. Some quickly proved they had never played an instrument in their lives.

When Mr Honeybell felt the actors had reached a sufficiently good standard of performance, he invited Edward Gregson to a rehearsal. After hearing a piece played for the first time, Gregson called out: "Brave! By the opening night it should be fantastic."

All agree that rehearsals are proving to be great fun. Perhaps there is scope for an actor to write another play about the problems of staging a play about brass bands.

Cyril Bainbridge

The happy band of actors

which opens at the Greenwich Theatre on November 6, with high hopes of a transfer to the West End. Later, *All Together Now* is a realistic piece about the activities involving a once famous band that is rescued from decline by a new conductor who improves its standards but whose methods treat splits and dramas in the bandroom.

Casting of the play proved difficult, and at times hilarious, finding 16 actors who could give a credible performance on a brass instrument as well as act. They have to play their instruments deliberately badly

About 50,000 people are expected to crowd into Trafalgar Square tomorrow for a rally organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). It is likely to be one of the biggest demonstrations in Britain in recent times and marks the extraordinary renaissance of a movement which only a year ago seemed moribund.

The Government's decision to purchase the Trident missile system to replace Polaris, as Britain's independent nuclear deterrent, and to allow the firing of American nuclear missiles in this country, together with the increased tension in East-West relations, have created a new interest in nuclear disarmament and brought more recruits to CND than it had even in its heyday in the late 1950s.

So far, the new nuclear disarmament movement has avoided the political fractional-

ism which dogged the CND and the Committee of 100 in its early days. It has attracted a broad alliance of Christians, humanists, pacifists, intellectuals, left-wingers and trade unionists, some committed to unilateralism and others to multilateralism.

Last weekend nearly 1,000 people attended a CND rally in Bristol, addressed by Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Mr Bruce Rugeley, editor of the *New Statesman*, and Miss Julie Christie, the actress. A similar number packed the Free Trade Hall in Manchester for a debate on nuclear weapons organized by a couple who spent their holiday convincing the event.

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Letter from Chateau Margaux

£10 a day and a great vintage too

We ploughed through fields and splattered a good deal across the land, but we were fed and quartered in style, alongside grand.

All the good things around us were undoubtedly great, from heaven above, but in the mud of the Medoc vineyards this week end there was no getting away from the fact that they had come down to a particularly wet and clinging earth.

The vendange, that is the grape harvest, started early, late this year because the month of rains has stopped the fruit from turning. Rich juicy purple colour it needs to be if it is to produce the juice for a really great wine.

It was only this past weekend that the grapes were ready and despite the wind and the occasional scolding rain clouds the vendange could start work. With precious little time left before winter the pickers were busy everywhere, their bright orange and yellow clothes bobbing up and down like boats on the green sea of vines.

A carefully picked bunch of journalists was invited down to the Bordeaux region for the start of the vendange to discover the joys of carefully picking the bunches of grapes which will one day become a vintage wine with a pedigree going back through the centuries.

The vineyards chosen for the picking lessons were those surrounding the 1302 Palladian masterpiece, Chateau Margaux, which have, since 1855, been providing the grape juice which annually is turned into that wonderful concoction, a premier Grand Cru-classified wine.

Only Mouton-Rothschild has succeeded in garnering the exclusive club of the four Grand Crus since they were first classified in 1855 and there is no chance at all that any other person will be allowed to do so. To be allowed to pick the grapes for such a wine is a bit like being asked to cut the cloth for a Savile Row suit or diamond for a Cartier necklace. There is a tremendous worry that one slip will ruin both the finished article and a reputation that has taken generations to create.

No room for doubt was left in the minds of the journalists as they were lined up in the mud to pick grapes, a plastic bucket in one hand and a pair of secateurs in the other.

Picking is done in pairs, one partner on each side of the vine, the basket held between the bunches to catch the fruit before it can fall into the mud. But it is not enough just to cut the bunches, one must also carry them to the basket. The grapes in the bunch are to be carefully inspected and any unripe ones or mouldy ones have to be thrown away. Should the juice of either go into the bucket it would be spoiled.

The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are small and tightly packed together on the bunch. It is necessary to pierce inside to make certain that there is nothing mouldy inside. This year the weather has meant that the grapes have ripened and been prone to start going mouldy at roughly the same time. Now that the vendange has started, therefore, it has to proceed as fast as that as many good grapes as possible can be gathered.

It takes a long time to inspect each grape on a bunch. Long

enough for the boots to sink into the sticky clay so deeply it is difficult to pull them out and move on to the next bunch. The 150 Chateau Margaux grape pickers here, their work cut out to bring home the harvest before the rot sets in.

They receive about £10.10 a day in wages, a good, wine-washed meal at lunchtime and two bottles of wine a day as well as a bus ride to and from their home village. It is hard, very seasonal work and very tiring. A Kent hop picker of old would feel at home.

The careful picking is backed by two teams of more expert rot pickers—one on the tractor and one at the chateau itself who gives the grapes a final looking over before they are shoveled and swung into the press, which, spits out, the stalks and pumps the juice into the vat. Feet are not used for pressing any more. Although everyone in the chateau wears rubber boots, the grapes are washed with the juice of vintages gone by.

The costs of producing a top quality wine are increasingly enormous. Apart from the labour, which is necessary to ensure it remains great. The temptation to increase quantities and decrease qualities is obvious and can best be resisted by someone financially unswayed by the need to make ends meet.

Chateau Margaux has such a proprietor in Mr Andre Mantheupoulos, the Greek-born owner of Felix Poin, one of France's largest chains of grocery stores. It is the fact that he has bought the chateau, however, that is the money on a breath-taking scale and so it is said saved a great name from mediocrity.

Apart from asking the press to pick the grapes, the vendange on the chateau this year was marked by the presence of French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. He is the producer of its fragrance and has the latest on being the "Margaux" in their honour.

So Margaux came to what the press and public called "my very own chateau" to pose in bright red leather trousers and a black jacket. The "Margaux" of 1980 is more important to their future than a vintage of a lesser blonde.

The experts say it is too early to tell accurately, but they guess that the vintage of 1980 will be a brilliant one. The grapes are small and tightly packed together on the bunch. It is necessary to pierce inside to make certain that there is nothing mouldy inside. This year the weather has meant that the grapes have ripened and been prone to start going mouldy at roughly the same time. Now that the vendange has started, therefore, it has to proceed as fast as that as many good grapes as possible can be gathered.

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DEFENCE ON THE OFFENSIVE

Government anger over the unveiling of more confidential Whitehall documents has so far partially obscured a very genuine concern about what the documents contain. The imbalance will be redressed next week, if not before, when Defence and Treasury ministers can expect a hostile reaction from many of their own party's MPs.

This presumably is what was intended by whoever released the material to the Press Association. We do not know whether this particular move wears uniform, but the services have been admitted throughout this century. Barred from using the normal channels of communication by their apologetic status, they have found the "leak" an effective weapon in conducting psychological warfare against a succession of unsympathetic governments.

Not that Mrs Thatcher's administration could be called unsympathetic. Indeed the Conservatives were welcomed back to power last year with relief bordering upon euphoria in Horse Guards Avenue. Promises to upgrade defence in the order of national priorities were followed by a generous pay rise for the Armed Forces and a pledge to increase defence spending by an annual 3 per cent in real terms until 1985, as requested rather optimistically by NATO of all its members.

A carefully drafted caveat was introduced into last April's Defence White Paper, however. The Government, it said, would

not consider it a failure of policy if it modified its spending plans in either direction from year to year. At present it looks as if the only direction in which such spending plans are likely to be modified is downwards.

Ministers now refer more cautiously to raising the Budget by 4.5 per cent in the next year. Of 3 per cent. Last year it went up by 2.1 per cent. This year there is general speculation that the 3 per cent will have become 1.1 per cent by next April, although the Ministry argues that it cannot make any predictions while inflation, fuel costs and the foreign exchange rate remain unknown factors.

In fact the Government's plans are beginning to look rather a mess. On the one hand they embrace substantial orders for new tanks, Trident missiles and some rather nebulous ideas for defending Western interests outside Europe. On the other hand the chiefs of staff are worried, as they were under the previous government, by the effects of the cash squeeze on their ability to pay for these. The side-effects of the recession are playing havoc with cash limits, leading to the present three-month moratorium on new contracts. Fuel cuts have been ordered, as they have in other NATO countries, and now—revealed by the PA documents—the Treasury is demanding still more stringent economies next year.

Arguments between the Treasury and spending departments are annual and almost inevitable. In

comparison, with other parts of Whitehall, the Ministry of Defence has so far escaped lightly in the drive to curb public spending. It is the familiar gap between promise and fulfilment that now threatens to make the Government unpopular with the services and some of its more defence-minded backbenchers.

It is difficult to argue that defence should be sacrosanct. As one of Whitehall's big spenders, Mr Pym's department must expect to bear a share of the economies. But the Government will come under more justifiable criticism if it fails by a significant margin to meet a commitment to NATO, first given—and fulfilled—by its predecessor, then confirmed and extended so freely last year, in spite of the caveat that was later introduced.

The uncertainty over defence spending will also raise once more the question of the Trident missile. The services did not fret with much enthusiasm the Government's determination to spend £25,000m on a new strategic deterrent because they foresaw that their conventional weapons programmes might be adversely affected. In spite of Government assurances, it looks as if these fears could be justified. Already the RAF's Jaguar replacement programme is having to be redrawn—although this is not a straight case of cause and effect.

A mole can make a mess of the garden. But this one has uncovered what seems to be quite serious alarm among the chiefs of staff. It is right that that should be made known because important issues of national defence are involved.

ON THE RACK OF THE EXCHANGE RATE

Sterling continued its upward surge this week. In terms of the real economy it is now unequivocally too high. There was and is much strength in the argument that the central problems of the British economy can no longer be counteracted by continued devaluation of sterling. A strong pound faces British business squarely with the true nature of low productivity. It also helps in the fight against inflation by holding back the price of imports. With the recession in its present degree, however, it cannot be sensible for sterling to continue to move upwards.

When ICI, the country's leading manufacturing company, has to report as it did this week that it is now trading at a loss and puts the effect of the high sterling exchange rate as one of the main causes, it is clear that the British economy is upon the rack. And while it is one thing to argue in favour of sterling holding its value against other currencies, its continued appre-

ciation against them is quite another matter.

For with the exchange rate as with other elements, it is the ability of not knowing from day to day the basis on which business decisions should be made, particularly in the area of imports and exports, that has knocked the confidence out of the system. Since the trauma of the 1974 oil price rise and the explosion of price levels that has followed in the rest of the decade, the general increase in the level of uncertainty has been perhaps the major reason for the drop in economic growth rates and investment in new plant and machinery.

The direct cause of the high sterling exchange rate is the level of interest rates that has been deliberately engineered by the Government in order to validate its monetary policy. The case for a reduction in the Minimum Lending Rate becomes stronger day by day. Every measure of what is happening

in the real economy would lead to the conclusion that a reduction was now required.

The Government will naturally be concerned at the possible effect of an MLR reduction on its control of the money supply. The actual operation of monetary policy has got itself into a paradoxical position that a drop in MLR could lead to further substantial sales of government debt, which in turn would reduce the amount of money left in the banking system and so tend once again to push up the level of market interest rates.

The authorities must extricate themselves from this tactical problem and then begin the steady retreat from the present record levels of interest rates. By the end of next week they should have a preliminary indication of what next month's figures for the growth in money supply are going to show. It must be hoped that the decision will not be long delayed thereafter.

MOSCOW'S AFGHAN PUPPET

Mr Babrak Karmal, the President of Afghanistan, has been in the Soviet Union for what should by rights have been a thoroughly uncomfortable visit, both for himself and his hosts. The Soviet skoever of Afghanistan has proved to be a far more difficult and costly operation than can be expected, and there is no sign that the situation is going to become any easier. If the Soviet authorities ever had any illusion that the Afghans would coalesce in the arrival of their troops they have now been thoroughly disabused. The Soviet troops can impose their control in any given area when they concentrate their efforts on it, but once they move out resistance starts up again. Divided though they are, and without the most modern weapons, the Afghans remain a force to be reckoned with; and the Soviet Union appears starkly before the world as a great power trying to file a small and reluctant neighbour by sheer force of arms.

Yet the message from Moscow, that nothing will change, Mr Karmal, a discredited puppet if ever there was one, who has

totally failed to attract a significant degree of support for his regime, was given red-carpet treatment wherever he went in the Soviet Union. In his speech at a state banquet, President Brezhnev maintained the fiction that Afghan resistance was simply the product of foreign intervention, and promised continued Soviet support. This support will continue, according to a joint statement published subsequently, until all opposition to the regime in Kabul has been crushed. Withdrawal of Soviet troops will not even be considered until there is a political settlement on terms already proposed by Kabul last May—among them, de facto recognition by Iran and Pakistan of the Karmal regime and an end to all support for the Afghan insurgents.

The Soviet Union is paying a price for its Afghan policy, and must continue to be made to do so. None of the actions taken so far, such as the economic boycott by itself, force the Soviet authorities to pull back from Afghanistan. Ultimately, only the Afghans themselves can do that, by making the continued

occupation of the country impossible. But pressure must continue to be brought to bear on the Soviet Union, both for the sake of Afghanistan itself and in order to deter the Kremlin from embarking on comparable invasions in the future. This can be done at the forthcoming conference in Madrid on European security, and at this autumn's session of the United Nations General Assembly, where the Islamic countries are preparing a resolution which will call for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union cannot excuse its occupation by referring defensively to tension and uncertainty on its southern border, sensitive though it may have been about that. Such nervousness does not justify the takeover of a neighbouring country of no aggressive intent, and the wholesale repression which is now under way, in support of a conspicuously unpopular regime. It is not something that the Kremlin will easily accept, but it has to be repeated over and over again.

sample respect for the unit of currency. A glut of anything induces shapeliness, even contempt for that commodity, and the huge amount of money we have to carry about or prepared to sign for has resulted in just that attitude.

It is reflected in the price differences for identical items, particularly those costing less than a pound, and nobody cares to be simply too boring to "shop around". Such apathy in turn develops greater greed on the part of the seller; hence the plunder economy that now operates in London and the South-East. Who can respect a bit of paper that won't even buy a decent glass of Scotch?

Before the war anyone earning £32 a year was hard up and the very figure was significant. Now someone earning £3,000 a year is also hard up but the quantities and the currencies become hilarious. Initially, the New Pound would be regarded as just another high denomination note (it is relative after all) but with increasing circulation a proper concern for the figure 1 would return and contribute to the economic sense that in the end has got to prevail.

Yours faithfully,
F. M. J. FINUCANE,
Grindens,
Horsley Lodge Lane,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.
October 22.

Gresham's law

From Captain P. M. J. Finucane
Sir, When are we going to do as the French did twenty years ago and introduce the New Pound, which should be equal to 100 of the present bit of rubbish?
A factor affecting inflation which we never hear about is respect

A future for 'The Times'

From Mr George Malcolm Thomson
Sir, Apart from yourself and a handful of others like you, the paramount interest in the survival and character of *The Times* is that of its readers.

Yet, from the beginning of this long, bitter dispute, the reader, who has already been heard from, the reason is, I suppose, that they have no representative organization.

I propose that a body called The Friends of *The Times* be set up forthwith, under responsible leadership, to take part in the discussions which are now inevitable and to ensure, as far as possible, that *The Times* is established on a sound, commercial basis, taking full advantage of the most up-to-date technology.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON,
5 The Mount Square, NW3,
October 23.

From Mr John Clog
Sir, The title of the Editor's article, *The Times is going to fight for herself*, in today's issue, suggests that you regard your great newspaper as feminine: as a consistent reader for nearly seventy years, I have never detected any female bias in your columns.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN CLOG,
3 The Mall,
East Sheen, SW14,
October 23.

From Mr D. R. B. Allen
Sir, Please may we view *The Times* as a British institution embodying the best of British values. Your many Celtic readers can then wholeheartedly affirm that *The Times* must not cease.
Yours faithfully,
D. R. B. ALLEN,
85 Pursers Cross Road, SW6,
October 23.

A bridge too low?

From Mr Peter Mason
Sir, Mr Seymour (October 17) rightly criticizes the "Chesapeake Bay" type solution combining a series of bridges, islands and tunnels, for a Channel crossing as being such a hazard to shipping that the maritime interests would veto it. In its place he supports the high-level, long-span suspension bridge stretching across the Channel in spans 2km long.

But isn't this just as impracticable, at least for a considerable time to come? Unfortunately, we cannot yet build suspension bridges by remote control mechanisms as we can (or partly can) motor cars. A suspension bridge requires men working on the tops of the towers "spinning" the thousands of wires needed to make the huge cables from which the bridge deck is suspended. For a span of 2km (nearly a mile and half) the towers would need to be higher than the New West Bank tower!

Is human working at this height, in a mid-Channel environment with all its weather patterns of wind and storm, really feasible? And of course work has to be carried on not only at the towers, where there would be an escape route down the tower, but out in mid-span, where it would be difficult to arrange a quick escape along a three-quarter-mile "backing" cableway in a sudden squall or storm.

Such necessary man operations could only be done (if at all) by confining them to suitable weather windows. And can we predict these new sufficient accurately, for mid-Channel, make the whole construction programme capable of being planned on any economic assessment of the ultimate cost of the project? I doubt it.

It is agreed that a Channel link is desirable, but I suggest that the current tunnel proposal is the sensible one to pursue. The knowledge and prosecution methods are tried and proven. Costs can be defined more easily because of the defined uncertainties.
Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
Partland Associates,
Consulting Engineers,
41 Streatham High Road, SW16,
October 20.

Interpreting trade figures

From Mr Wynne Godley
Sir, According to your first leader (October 22) "The effect of unemployment on the economy is a substantial factor so far preventing the recession in the British economy going further than it has". Another leader on October 23 repeats the same point over and over again.

Nothing can be learnt about the consequence of international trade on domestic output from simple inspection of balance of trade figures recording the difference between exports and imports, because imports are themselves so heavily influenced by recession. To gauge the effect of trade on output it is necessary to consider the relationship between exports and import penetration.

In fact, while exports have been pretty well flat, import penetration has clearly been rising: in the third quarter imports of finished manufactures were 4 per cent down on 1979 whereas manufacturing output was down about 11 per cent. At the same time domestic prices in the third quarter were 19 per cent up on 1979 (roughly in line with costs) whereas export prices for manufactures were only 13 per cent up, implying a severe squeeze on already reduced profit margins with consequential adverse effects on stock building and employment. It seems clear that these negative effects on demand have greatly exceeded any positive effect on real demand arising from the relative stability of import prices.

I completely agree with your leader that if there were now a sudden collapse in the volume of exports, the effect through the whole of the economy would be catastrophic.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
University of Cambridge
(Department of Applied Economics),
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
October 22.

Pricing policy for European air fares

From the Chief Executive of British Airways
Sir, Your leader "Why European flights cost so much" (October 22) displayed a depressing ignorance of its subject.

While it is broadly true that fares in Europe are higher—often considerably higher—than in the United States, it is an archaic notion that "the usual defence for such practices is that they ensure that the airlines can cover the costs of their operations". This notion in defence of high air fares was vaguely current 20 or 30 years ago. Even then it was never clearly identified. I cannot imagine who would advance it today. Certainly not British Airways.

If one wished to justify European rates in relation to American rates as much more valid points to do with higher costs (fuel, airport charges, routings and so on). In fact, notwithstanding these comparisons, British Airways agrees that fares within Europe are not high and your leader's case seems recognition to the efforts we are making to force them down.

It is facile, though no doubt popular, to imply that the licensing of more British carriers, apparently offering lower fares, will have the effect of bringing the rates down. The uncomfatable fact is—as Mr. Nott said—that we shall not get anywhere without overcoming the resistance of the foreign governments and their airlines.

Your leader completely ignored the fact that British Airways has begun to make dents in this resistance. Our new two-class flights introduced this year on the London-Paris route in conjunction with Air France have made a major breakthrough by offering several grades of low fares, in the tourist cabin while giving the business traveller a better deal in the new "Club" class. The fares are as low as £35 return and would have included a £30 one-way standby ("Channel-supper") had this not been denied by the French Government. This new concept of "Club" class is the forward part of the aircraft and low fares related to the facilities provided by British Airways upon carriers and governments throughout Europe have been the primary factor in achieving success. It is to be extended to eight more routes from Britain, including London-Amsterdam, by December 1.

Mr. Nott recognized this in his statement when he said: "British Airways have been at the forefront of an attempt to liberalize fares within Europe". I think we might have reasonably expected some recognition from you.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN WATTS,
British Airways,
PO Box 10,
Hathorn Airport (London),
Hounslow, Middlesex.

From Mr F. S. Law
Sir, I was delighted to read your leader on European air fares. It is

Transplants dilemma

From Mr A. N. Bowden and others
Sir, We are concerned about the clinical conditions in the programme, "Transplants—are the donors really dead?" It essentially questioned the clinical criteria which have been accepted by many British medical practitioners for the clinical conditions in the programme.

While we believe that any criteria should always be subject to critical examination, it is not justified to cast doubt upon them by quoting, from American practice, a number of patients who though thought at some time by someone to be brain dead did not fit the criteria which are being questioned. The clinical criteria in use in Britain state clearly that before examination of the various features required to make the diagnosis of brain stem death, the examining doctors (at least two) must be certain of the following facts:

1. No drugs have been administered, or there should be no evidence of metabolic, or diabetic coma.
 2. There should be no primary hypothermia, such as occurs in cases of drowning.
 3. The primary diagnosis must be based on a history of spontaneous intracerebral haemorrhage.
- The patients involved in the programme have not been considered as brain stem dead for the following reasons:
1. One patient had been given a muscle relaxant drug.
 2. One patient had taken a drug overdose—in this case the diagnosis had apparently been made by a person not medically qualified.
 3. One patient was suffering about such movement as one of the features which would exclude the possibility of brain stem death. Indeed the patient's wife said, "he didn't look dead to me".
- The 14 survivors in the long-term study of brain death likewise did not meet the necessary criteria: 12

Attacks on the elderly

From Mrs Joan Jonker
Sir, I would be grateful if you would afford me the opportunity of replying to Professor Olive Stevenson (October 17).

The Victims of Violence organization, which was featured in the BBC programme *Men Alive*, has been my sole concern for the last four years, and in that time I have visited over a thousand elderly people who have been victims of various types of crime. I have been horrified daily at the suffering and misery, and of the total lack of help given to these people. They are completely ignored by society and no one, from any official source, calls to see if they are in need of help.

I see, every day, elderly defenceless people who have had all their money stolen and are left penniless until their next pension day. They are usually too shocked and distressed after the offence to go and beg for money from the Social Security even if they know that they can. I do not accept what Professor Stevenson gives as an excuse for lack of help for the victims, that cutbacks in expenditure in the social services make it unrealistic for us to expect help for them. If there is money available to help the offender then there should be

almost incomprehensible that a government which has professed to be in favour of cheap fares is not willing to back Sir Freddie Laker's application because other European governments are likely to oppose it.

The attitude taken by my country in the Economic and Social Committee in Brussels was quite clearly that of defending a monopoly situation, the effects of which are damaging to the travelling public.

We should most have passed the stage of the so-called "underdeveloped" nations whose desire to have their national airlines at any cost has often been ridiculed by the industrial nations. Yet we seem to be going back to the same thing when we drop them up and do not force them to have open competition.

I do hope Sir Freddie Laker will appeal to the European courts and that the courts will judge in his favour.
Yours faithfully,
F. S. LAW,
61 Cadogan Square, SW1,
October 23.

From Mr James Moorhouse, MEP for London South (Conservative)
Sir, While one can understand Mr. Nott's present reluctance to antagonize the national governments of other member states in the Community who, not unnaturally, want to protect their state interests, it is a great pity it comes at a time when the European Parliament has just gone on record, in its debate last week on air transport, as being in favour of more competition in the air. This was no mean achievement, considering the diversity of opinion. Parliamentarians of all parties could clearly see, and agreed, that the present system would have to be liberalized.

As I myself said in the Parliament during the debate on the Hoffmann and Schwarzenberg reports (Parliamentary Report, October 17), we do not seek to overturn the air transport market in the Community, but we do seek to make it a great deal more responsive to the needs of the travelling public. For we believe that airlines exist not to symbolize national sovereignty, but to serve the public.

The national carriers argue in favour of a gradualist evolutionary approach, but when we look at how far this approach has got us in the field of Community transport policy over the last 25 years, we must ask ourselves if this is not a case for adopting a somewhat more radical policy?

Why must we handicap one of our most competent and resourceful industries, and limit the opportunity for people to move more freely around Europe, for fear of jeopardizing our European interests in other directions?
Yours faithfully,
JAMES MOORHOUSE,
Hill House,
64 Honnor Oak Road,
Forest Hill, SE23,
October 22.

The Romans in Britain

From Mr Thomas Pike
Sir, Lord Olivier (October 22) maintains that "the majority of our generation swear among themselves almost without knowing it". I maintain that he is wrong. My family and circle do not swear, and I am sure that the majority of my generation do not.

Lord Olivier is confusing nature with art, but that art views life from the left and gets a distorted image. Elderly people like me are often reproved by younger colleagues with the words: "You cannot foster your middle-class attitudes upon working-class children"—as though the civilized values which could protect us all were alien to those working-class children—and must remain so.

A little reflection will tell Lord Olivier that the working-class of this country is not so debased as the self-indulgent entertainment industry, which has deluded him, would have us believe. The why cinemas are closing and television sets are being switched off—increasingly.
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
THOMAS PIKE,
Ved Merlin Grove,
Buckingham,
Kent.
October 22.

From Mr J. R. L. Snodham
Sir, If the social habits of the Roman army are portrayed by the National or any other theatre, I do not give a hoot. But I object strongly to the National Theatre being used to launch an attack on a nationality of which I am not a part, and a dangerous role of the British Army in carrying it into effect. I am staying away from Act 11.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN SODHAM,
107 Ashley Gardens, SW1,
October 23.

From Mr E. G. Wright
Sir, The Reverend Eric Lindsay refers (October 21) to the "blackmail" of a possible reduction in grant to the National Theatre and says that such a reduction would be an immoral action.

Presumably those of us who support grants for the arts from public funds do so in the belief that they will contribute to the intellectual and spiritual enrichment of the community. If I subsequently conclude (whether mistakenly or not) that this public money is being used to degrade rather than enrich the community, it is then immoral for me to urge that this use of public funds should cease?

Or is it that Mr Lindsay is over-ready to impute immorality to those whose opinions differ from his own?
Yours sincerely,
E. G. WRIGHT,
63 Southbourne Grove,
Bournemouth,
Hampshire,
October 21.

Courtship success

From Mrs Philippa Perks
Sir, Perhaps "The marriage fletcher, October 21" took place eventually.
Yours faithfully,
PHILIPPA PERKS,
2 Highdale Road,
Cleveland,
Avon.
October 22.

- **Stock Markets**
Fr Ind 495.5 up 3.0
FT Ind 71.55 up 0.30
- **Sterling**
\$2.4400 down 25 points
Index 78.9 up 0.3
- **Dollar**
Index 84.7 up 0.2
DM 1.8655 up 37 pts
- **Gold**
\$632.50 down \$5.00
- **Money**
3 month sterling 161-16
3 month Euro \$14 1/2-13
6 month Euro \$ 14 1/2-13

Vauxhall yesterday denied that the last-minute announcement of two cut-price Chevrolet models was a Motor Show publicity stunt to counteract the launch of the Metro. The company said the £2,240, six-door, 1,300 cc. Viva and the £2,000, four-door, 1,300 cc. Nova models are nearly £300 below the previous bottom of the range of Chevrolet saloons and hatchbacks. They undercut the cheapest Metro by more than £200.

Vauxhall dealers said that the story was quoting delivery of only one or two cars a month in January. A Midlands dealer said: "The 36 dealers in the Midlands allocated only 60 cars between them. Why this incredible..."

A spokesman for the car manufacturers said that the decision to go ahead with the new models was taken "at least two days before Motor Show press day. He added: "It is certainly not a stunt."

The Government is to issue a coupon gilt-edged stock used principally as higher rate taxpayers. The issue is £400m Treasury 3 per cent 1988-90. The stock is to be offered next Thursday at a minimum tender price of £72½ per £100 to give a flat yield of 4 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 10.79 per cent.

The real threat to the British motor industry comes not from Japanese, but from European exports, Mr. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs said.

Ir "William Lasar," of Lasar Manufacturing of Los Angeles, announced in Glasgow that his subsidiary, Butcher Boy (United Kingdom), has established a British headquarters and European manufacturing base for its processing equipment in the Garnock Valley, in the west of Scotland, where the unemployment rate is 11.5 per cent.

Another 220 jobs are to disappear in the paper industry in North-west. The redundancies are planned at the Warringham Mill of Thames Board Mills which makes cardboard for the packaging industry.

orer Electronics of Read
Berkshire, which makes
modems, has been acquired
Vicom Systems of California
renamed Micom-Borer. A
ze of data communications
ducts will be marketed.

Itspur, the industrial holding company in which Mr. Joseph has a personal 10 per cent stake, has rejected inadequate the £32m bid by Transport Development Corp.

1e Dow Jones industrial
age closed at 943.60, up
on Wall Street yesterday.
S-SDR rate was 1.30176
e L-SDR was 6.530141.

By John Whitmore

The Bank of England has taken the cautious step of reminding banks of their obligation to maintain a minimum level of reserves at all times, adding that there may be spot checks in future.

It has also made it clear that banks must purchase a certain amount of high-quality foreign bills as part of their reserve requirements, and has added to its purchase of weaponry for relieving reserve asset shortages.

These moves remind us of reporting instructions of the reserve asset obligations follows the undue pressures that can be put on money markets every time the City makes up its mind to come round. This time, was especially intense 10 days ago when the banks squared off their books for the October banking month.

It is clear that there has been some reporting instructions that have not been observing the requirement to keep a set pro-

By Our Financial Correspondent
Starting at over \$2,660 in early dealings in foreign currencies yesterday, (But) profit taking finally brought the rate against the dollar all the way back to \$2,400—25 points above the 1937 high. The pound also fell to 240 1/2, 10 points down against other currencies. It still managed to finish with net gains against the Deutsche mark, the Swiss franc, and the yen. The gold weighted index finally closed at 73.3 during the morning.

Over the week as a whole, the starting index has risen 10 points to 73.5 cent. Since the beginning of the year, the index has been just over a per cent. The pound's most spectacular

From Peter Norman
London, Oct 24

Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission, today urged Britain to become a full member of the European Monetary System. He told a meeting of the Association of European Journalists in Rome that a sterling joined the exchange rate arrangements of the EMS it would create greater exchange stability, which would be welcomed by British exporters and good for the British economy.

In a speech deliberately timed to coincide with the third annual

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

European industry is beginning to make advantage of the "revolution" now taking place in telecommunications and information technology, Vincent Davidson, European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs, said in London yesterday.

The United States and Japan in particular were well ahead of Europe, he said. The penalties for failure to adapt to the new technology would be "enormous" if Europe could not become a second-class economy.

For the rewards for success will be great, he added.

Speaking at a conference on information technology organized by the National Commission on General Association with the EEC Commission, Davidson said:

"There are many problems to overcome. Steps will have to be taken to adapt: present education and training systems into a new technology. There will be adapted and public procurement policies streamlined."

Vincent Davidson stressed the imbalance between Europe and the United States in the market, and the share of the

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Oct. 24

"American inflation is continuing at a 12 per cent rate, according to figures released today. The inflation rate is expected to continue, and, as the last set of statistics to be released before Nov. 4, they may be damaging the President's chances for reelection.

"The Bureau of Labour Statistics said that consumer prices rose by 1 per cent last year after a 0.7 per cent seasonal adjusted gain in August.

"Inflation has become critical election issue and Republicans are warning of a campaign tirelessly on the threat that the Carter Administration has pursued inflation policies.

"Mr. Jody Powell, White House press spokesman, said after release of the consumer price figures that Mr. Reagan's tax cutting strategy would merely add to inflation. He added that given the high figures and the seriousness of inflation, the response would be to raise taxes. He said for him (Mr. Powell) would be to withdraw his cut proposals."

By Edward Townsend

The National Enterprise Board yesterday sold its 20 per cent stake in Brown Boveri & Cie, the industrial instrument company, for about £2.5m. The shareholders' fund amounted to £1.5m, and the company had no other financial institutions.

The sale represents a loss to the NEB of about £800,000 or its £3.3m total investment in Brown Boveri. The move was announced at the same time as the liquidation of the NEB's interim results for the six months to the end of June, which showed a loss before tax of £4m, compared with a 56.4m profit in the year ended March 1980.

Brown Boveri, which is controlled by Brown Boveri & Cie, Switzerland, suffered a dip in pre-tax profits in the first half of 1980 to £536,000 against £1,000,000 in the prior period. However, after a 10 per cent increase from £40.7m to £45.5m, the company, which employs about 4,200 in the United Kingdom, suffered a first half year net loss after tax of £5,000,000.

The NEB originally owned 12.3 per cent stake in Brown Boveri which it took over from the Industrial Reorganization Corporation. This was increased to 20 per cent by agreement with the Swiss Government.

By Carbridge Gunn

Mr John Bentley's Tebbitt Group bought nearly 10 per cent of the Renwick company yesterday, and declared its intention to bid for all or part of the group.

Renwick is already the subject of an agreed £7.2m bid from fuel distribution group A.A.H.

In a letter, sent last night to Mr William Pybus, the chairman of A.A.H, Mr Bentley said: "Our interest in Renwick is in the motor and boat building and travel subsidiaries, and we have been considering making an offer either for these interests or for the whole of the group. The offer by A.A.H came as something of a surprise to us."

Mr Bentley said earlier this week that Tebbitt was in an acquisitive mood.

Action call on cheap US fibres

Kingdom was urged yesterday by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of Energy, to "re-examine" structures United States manufacturers have from under-priced energy is unfair and unacceptable. Mr Parkinson said:

"Both Britain and the United States had a programme to abolish dollar pricing of oil—dollar pricing being the cause of the high energy prices by which the cost of next year's natural gas deregulation was not planned to occur until 1985. That was "a very long time ago."

"The United States only an equity in the American approach on energy prices, but it made no sense in price policy terms. Mr Parkinson said.

The EEC faces a decision by the end of the year on whether to extend quotas. Imposed at the beginning of this year, on the United States, they will cut American car yarn from the United States.

Mr. John Bentley: rival offer for Renwick 'a surprise to us'

cent. AAH would be prevented from buying out that minority assuming its bid goes ahead.

A copy of Mr Bentley's letter was also sent to Mr Kenneth Holmes, chief executive of Renwick. "I am terribly upset that the bid should be interfered with", he said.

Mr Holmes said he understood that Tebbitt had paid more than the bid price for its

Steel quotas crucial for

But he said that the meeting in London was bound to be a difficult one and a very important one for the European Community. Quotations have been proposed by the West German Government.

Speaking at a press conference in London, Viscountess de Marnes-Latour-Maumont denied that there was a "harder crisis" in the steel industry.

No productive suggestion for dealing with the situation had been produced, and eight of the nine countries involved had agreed that the Commission's proposed action was the best method of overcoming the spiral of over-production and price-cutting.

The aim of today's meeting, she said, was to put our German friends that they were not being penalized

By Our Financial Staff

Viking Resources Trust, the oil and gas stocks investor, is to raise \$10m in the first major equity rights issue by an investment trust since 1972. The one-for-one issue, at 50p a share, will be offered to shareholders on yesterday's 167p share price, and will not be underwritten.

The trust's Scottish managers, Ivory & Sims, are confident that the issue will raise the money fully. The decision now to have the rights issue underwritten reduces the issue expenses considerably.

In the last decade, the substantial discount of investment trust shares to their net asset values has ruled out large rights issues except for an occasional convertible issue. But demand for shares in energy portfolios has put it in an exceptionally strong position.

Its latest published net asset value of 162.9p is below last month's share price. It was calculated on October 17, and should show a present rise on the March 31 figure.

Roughly two-thirds of Viking's £31m portfolio is invested in North American energy stocks. The rest is invested here.

Viking Resources also announced an interim pre-tax profits increase at September 30 of 23.6 per cent to £245,000 from £198,000, and declared an interim dividend of 10p a share.

A crash programme has been put forward which would impose quotas from November 1. These would automatically end on June 30 next year.

Viscount Davington said the quotas might not solve the problem but they should improve it. He admitted that the monitoring of the quotas and the proposed quotas would be hard.

If the Council of Ministers approves the imposition of the steel production quotas, it will be the first time the European Commission has intervened in the industry.

In the Commissioner's view the crisis has arisen because of over-production in the face of economic recession coupled with an influx of cheap steel from countries with lower production costs.

The result, despite an appeal for voluntary restraint, has been a price-cutting war among producers and exporters in which the Commission says it is threatening to undermine the entire industry in the EEC.

The quotas would be supplemented by higher levies on imported steel to prevent further upsurges in steeling and a resurgence of the "manic crisis".

By Our Commercial Editor.

A warning that company directors as individuals could face fines or imprisonment where Restrictive Practices Court orders were defied came from Mr. Gordon Director-General of Fair Trading.

Mr. Borrie, who was speaking about development of competition policy, at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, said the new issue arose when he had challenged a price agreement between some manufacturers and manufacturers similar to one already outlawed by the court. The makers were found guilty of contempt of court and fined £186,000.

The court had indicated at the time that in future proceedings Mr. Borrie should consider taking action not only against companies but against individual directors.

Mr. Borrie said yesterday: "Clearly this is something which shall have to be investigated in any future case and the penalties might well in future not only be the company fines but fines on or imprisonment of directors."

He also referred to the likelihood of more severe penalties being imposed in cases of undisclosed collusion in such agreements. Criminal sanctions for such actions have been actively canvassed since recent disclosures of collusion in some construction industry tendering.

The case for criminal sanctions has been convincingly argued in the Department of Trade's recent consultative document on the issue. Mr. Borrie said, and on the face of the case seemed overwhelming, that the Government would first consider criminal sanctions for Britain's anti-trust legislation.

Modified rules for the Stock Exchange saw the United States Securities and Exchange Commission's current CS(2) rules, which were released yesterday with 18 main changes, to its original draft. This has been sent back for further study by the Council for the first time.

Work on planning the new market started last year and a discussion paper emerged in December. The Stock Exchange Council and it received a substantial amount of industry support and replies were "broadly favorable."

It is understood that many stock jobbers took a dim view of the new market and there were even suggestions that they might fall at the first post. However, it received the blessing of its own Stock Exchange Council members early in September. The CS(2) approval on October 2.

The most important change to the original proposals for the second-tier market, designed to attract smaller companies including some with less than a \$1 million market value, is the deletion of a requirement that companies in the USM should achieve a full listing eventually.

Management conference in Harrogate.

"The prime task of communicating the need for restraint must be undertaken by those of us who are in the top management."

The importance of explaining economic reality to workers was also stressed at the conference by the Confederation of British Industry team, led by Sir Kenneth Robinson, president.

Mr Andrew Sargent, CBI adviser on employee relations, said: "Although most companies now recognise the need for communication of consensual policies, many managers lack the technique and sometimes the willingness to manage the process competently."

By Our Commercial Editor.

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PRICE CHANGES

ck	23p to 324p	Ladbroke	10p to 249p
ck Grp	5p to 102p	Rand Mine Prop	15p to 348p
Gold Fields	10p to 633p	Stan & Clarend	17p to 649p
Ironcompts	14p to 756p	Ultramar	13p to 473p
Iron Travel	11p to 343p	Websters Pub	5p to 28p

at & Hight	40p to 390p	Bucky Oil	20p to 630p
cers DIA	15p to 740p	ML Holdings	10p to 315p
er	20p to 450p	Mansey-Fer	25p to 225p
al Nat Res	20p to 33p	Rite Time Zee	55p to 413p
	20p to 505p	Vesper	7p to 74p

[illegible]

Managements urged to bypass union Plea for some straight

Management should try to put their pay offers direct to employees rather than through trade union representatives. Mr John Garnett, director of the Industrial Society said yesterday. Only a direct appeal would achieve pay restraint.

Mr. Andrew Sargent, CSI adviser on employee relations, says, "Although most companies are beginning to realize the reality for communication of consultative policies, many managers lack the technique and sometimes the willingness to manage the process competently."

alking to workers

He put forward a four-point plan to help initial management discussion, beginning with an audit of current practice and its effectiveness. The next stages were joint discussions of current practice with management unions and other companies to assess the effectiveness of their internal communications.

But those organizations which did have a formal policy were found to place a higher value on internal communication. The survey showed a change

A survey of employee communications representatives showed the establishment of a working party to promote and monitor progress and finally the identification of an action plan.

A survey of employee communications representatives showed delegates by Charles Gannett Lyons consultancy showed that, despite much activity in the last three years, only 40 per cent of the 131 organizations surveyed have a formal written policy. The absence of such a policy makes it difficult for

the reasons for communication with employees. Companies were becoming less defensive and more positive, moving from the legalistic to the business context, and stressing a need for workers to adjust to change.

Expenditure on employee communications is rising in real terms and will probably average £10 a head in 1980, the survey said. Over 20 per cent of organizations were using video.

Patricia Tisdall

Court ruling opens way to prosecution of directors

directors as individuals could face, fines or imprisonment where Restrictive Practices Court orders were defied came yesterday from Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

petition policy at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, said the issue had arisen when he challenged a prices agreement set by some concrete pipe manufacturers. The case was already outlawed by the court. The makers were found guilty of contempt of court and fined £186,000.

The court had indicated at the start that in future proceedings Mr. Borrie would consider taking action not only against companies but against individual directors.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Investor's week

The market easily absorbs ICI's loss

Trust the Treasury to walk out on a party. We had such fun. Not a penny of the week but we City folk did more business; and, towards the end of the week, we were giving brokers and jobbers nearly £200m worth of business a day. It was just like old times.

Those who study these things as a hobby link the week's trading volume and climbing share prices suggesting a sustained upswing. We hoisted the FT Index of 30 leading industries from 481.1 to 495.5 and propelled the all-share index from 297.3 to 315.76.

In this merry mood we took ICI's troubles in our stride. For the first time in its 54 years of history ICI made a loss. In the third quarter of the year the deficit was £10m.

So what? City folk, as they immediately decided that the group was going to maintain its dividend and start picking up profits very soon. Anyway, a cheap "one" the radio asked rhetorically: what is a little thing like £10m against sales of £1,100m?

There was an answer, but the market heeded it not. At the start of the week ICI shares were 336p. At the end they were 336p.

What they made of all this at the Treasury in Great George Street I know not. ICI thought its news was appalling that the directors released it five weeks early, neatly reversing the saw

that had figures take longer to add up than good.

The Treasury chose the same day, by coincidence, to let us know, ahead of official economic forecasts to be published late next month, that the recession will probably be deeper and longer than expected.

The trouble, according to these chaps, is not simply that the economy is slowing down. It is that, once hard-pressed companies finish unloading stocks, exports could start falling as two years of soaring costs press upon them.

I mention the Treasury fears because investors seem to assume that this business cycle will be like all the others. Traditional wisdom is that the FT index peaks when unemployment climbs to its high and, as if on cue, we learn this week that October jobless reached 1.98 million or 7.3 per cent of the workforce. It was the highest monthly jump since the end of the war—and the pace still seems to be quickening.

If so the FT index is on its way (if conventional wisdom is right) to 550 and a growing number of economists (the chaps who draw graphs of share prices to foretell the future)

agree. But is this cycle like all the others?

If it is, shares are probably cheap and some outstandingly cheap. If it is not, we are in uncharted territory.

Meanwhile, investors again put their money on Mrs Thatcher. Her policies, they said, will bring the economy working. So why worry about Jousy company news?

Hence we looked forward to ICI's profit recovery. We were relieved that Mothercare kept its profits from falling by more than £2.5m to £8.05m in its first half year, and the shares rose on the week.

British Marks & Spencer in its first six months, Down went pretax profits by 20 per cent. Christmas holds the key to second-half profits, but who will be turning it, Scrooge or Tiny Tim?

Investors remembered that Marks the week before had talked about customers returning to the shops. BHS shares finished higher on the week.

Down went US&F's interim profits by 38 per cent, suggesting that a maintained total dividend could be uncovered. But it was quickly pointed out that US&F's balance sheet was strong and the shares lost only a few pence.

A Nigerian boom swelled the coffers of Paterson, Zochonis, and Brooke Bond Liebig pegged away steadily. Everyone drinks tea and it has a short shelf life so the group did not fall foul of depleting.

Hawker Siddeley, deep in engineering, actually raised interim profits from £53.1m to £57.2m. But the gain came from abroad.

Elsewhere, electricals and oils powered ahead, taking the all-share index to an all-time high. But there are profits to be had in electricals and a defence cut scare may be just the excuse to take them.

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
90p	54p	Coral Leisure	9p to 80p	Bass bid
670p	328p	GECC	35p to 670p	De Zoete seminar
240p	158p	Hawker Siddeley	14p to 240p	Good interim
495p	317p	Int'l Thomson	55p to 377p	The Times to be sold
208p	184p	Saga Hols	26p to 208p	Tourist boom
Falls				
733p	353p	Brook St Bureau	7p to 37p	Int'nl fall
243p	188p	Bass	3p to 215p	Coral bid
195p	118p	Gill & Duffus	7p to 183p	Flax outlook
170p	113p	Peaschey	5p to 184p	25.5m rights
205p	75p	Vesper	22p to 78p	Pit riding

Taxation

Starting up and closing down

Normally, self-employed people are taxed on the previous year's basis (see last week's article). This means that if you are self-employed you pay tax this year on the profits that you earned in the accounting period ending in 1979-80. In time of inflation the previous year's basis will generally give the self-employed person a flow advantage over the Schedule E employee. The latter pays tax, under the RAYE system, on the income that he is at present receiving.

The choice of an accounting date is obviously important since there is a much longer delay between the income received and tax payment in the following year for an accounting year ending on April 30, compared with an accounting year ending December 31. However, not everybody should automatically choose April 30 as their accounting date since there are other considerations.

The previous year's basis does not always apply. There are three main situations where the basis has to be modified: these are when you start trading (usually referred to as "commencement"), when you cease trading ("discontinuance" or "cessation") and if you change your accounting date.

When you first start a business, a special procedure is necessary. In the period between commencement and the end of the tax year, you are taxed on the profits that you have made during that time. In the following tax year, you are assessed on the profits earned during the first full 12 months of trading and it is only in the next

tax year that you are assessed on the previous year's basis.

Of course, with different starting dates during a year and different year ending dates, patterns will vary quite considerably. The table takes the example of a person who began trading on May 1, 1977 and made up his first accounts to April 30, 1978.

The income for May 1, 1977-April 30, 1978 is calculated by taking the average proportion of your income between the start of trading and your first accounting date.

You have the option, during the second and third full tax years after starting to trade, to be taxed on the basis of the actual profits that you earned during those two tax years, instead of the assessments that would be made on the previous year's basis. So in this example, the 1978-79 actual profits are used for the first three years of trading.

As the accounting year ends in this case is not April 5, the assessments would be based on a percentage of the profits in the accounting years which cover each tax year in question. In general, it will be worthwhile taking this option if your profits fall during the first three years of trading.

If you choose an accounting date that is not exactly 12 months after you started, the principles are exactly the same, but the arithmetic looks slightly more complicated.

Picking the first accounting date is obviously a crucial decision and will affect the level of your tax liability for several years. So it is essential

to take advice from the very beginning.

Of course, you may wish to keep the same accounting date as the previous year's basis. The rules for changing your accounting dates are framed so that the change in itself does not lead to a tax advantage or indeed to a greater tax liability.

In principle, the assessment for the year in question is usually made on the 12-month period ending on the new date chosen during the preceding tax year. Then, the inland Revenue may need to make an adjustment to the previous assessment in order to make sure that no income is left out of account.

When you finally stop trading the reverse of the previous year's basis is also interrupted and different rules have to be applied. In the year you stop trading permanently, the tax assessment is based on the profits earned from April 6 until the date you cease to trade. The inland Revenue will then make additional assessments for the two previous tax years if the total profits you actually earned in those years are greater than the profits on which you have already been assessed on the previous year's basis. In order to avoid this additional assessment, you should try to keep your profits in those two years at the same levels as the profits in the two earlier years.

If you are contemplating turning your business into a limited company, or retiring and either closing down or selling your business, there could be an additional income tax liability that you were not anticipating and, again, it is essential to take advice as early as possible—when you are formulating your plans rather than executing them.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH

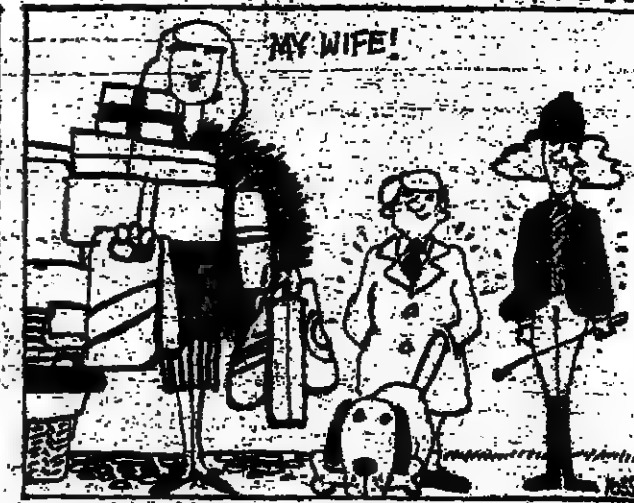
HERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE SURVEYS ABOUT INFLATION AFFECTING TYPICAL FAMILIES...



HOW ON EARTH DO THEY ARRIVE AT THESE FIGURES?



AND... WHY IS IT THEY NEVER COME TO INTERVIEW...



Building societies

Champion of the common man

Building society "folk heroes" are rare: the movement does not breed them often. It usually produces the good, sound men—and occasionally the bad—who have a life-time of service behind them, do sterling work, but within the established confines of building society practice.

Developing and putting into operation new ideas and theories traditionally makes enemies as well as friends. Mr. Clive Thornton, chief general manager of the Abbey National Building Society, has, within the mere 18 months since he took up office, managed to irritate and upset other building society leaders and the industry's close associates, and has implemented the radical ideas after another.

Mr. Thornton's enthusiasm is contagious. An attacking Tynesider, his background has put an irreconcilable stamp upon his building society views. Most building societies today, in his view, are in business to lend money to the middle-classes, which is completely different to what we want to do in this society.

He is not criticising his rivals, but stating an understandable fact. "The industry's never had enough money; and in these circumstances it's natural to lend to make one borrower buying a house and property. But, he continues, "I don't think the industry started on these principles."

The search for those mislaid, some may think irrelevant principles, has taken the Abbey National deep into the inner city areas, which not all that long ago critics of the industry defined as "no-go" areas for building societies.

It is now actively involved in 92 of the 200 odd officially designated "housing action areas" with a £5m this year (£6m next) lending programme for home improvements available to all who dwell there, be they tenants, landlords, buyers or existing owner-occupiers. It probably costs less to help five borrowers this way, than it does to finance one to move out, points out Mr. Thornton, adding that "I have no policy at all to destroy these communities."

Of course other building

societies are interested and active in urban renewal, but what makes Abbey's programme interesting is seeing it in the context of the society's actions on other fronts: not least its row with the Government and other building society leaders over Abbey's own grant bonds.

"We cannot allow our finances to be drained off," says Mr. Thornton. "We need all the money we can get our hands on." His angry charge is the extension of under-linked savings has already pulled in £25m and he is unapologetic about the impact his solo campaign to preserve Abbey's funds may have elsewhere.

Housing action area schemes and grant bonds are just two of the innovations which Mr. Thornton has masterminded since he emerged, rather unexpectedly, as chief general manager of the Abbey in March, 1979.

A solicitor, he trained with the Cooperative Permanent (now the Nationwide Building Society) and then did a stint with the Birmingham Mr. Fox Matthews and his First National Finance Corporation before moving back to the industry which he feels has

soul at or least "a sense of purpose."

He rejoined the building society movement in 1967 as solicitor at Abbey National and became a protégé of the late Sir Stanley Morgan, who when he was chief general manager was known for his advanced views on building society development.

On occasional articles and speeches he advocated, for example, that societies should move into the private purchase business and become involved in the rented sector. Mr. Thornton, it transpires, created the themes and wrote the speeches. So the ideas and developments that have been pouring out of Abbey National in the last 18 months are not all instant happenings; some have been in the crucible for a long time.

Some of his innovations, such as the "open bond" scheme launched last June with the purpose of keeping term-share money once the original term expired—are extensions of building society thinking.

But most of the new schemes he has pioneered by date, and those in the pipeline represent significant departures from traditional building society practice.

The most radical of these, perhaps, is the Abbey Housing Association which came into being this spring and unequivocally takes the building society movement into the rented housing market for competition with the Greater London Council, Abbey is building for rent, taking advantage of the short-term provisions of the new Housing Act, a total of 250 units in Tower Hamlets, Islington and Southwark.

Work has begun in Tower Hamlets while the Southwark scheme has been opened to an architectural competition for design conservation.

In September, Abbey National earned the popularity of house buyers up and down the country who have for years complained that they could not have right of the building society's survey of their intended property for the fact of appropriation from surveys.

Abbey National now makes this valuation available. And in Scotland, existing owner-occupiers can have a copy of the valuation report to use in their own negotiations when they put their house up for sale.

The other big grievance of house buyers—the cost of conveyancing—is high on Mr. Thornton's list of changes. Rather than allocate too many solicitors, he is trying to get approval from the Law Society about his plans, where Abbey National already holds the title deeds of the house for the mortgage to be passed on, by way of Abbey's own solicitors, without further investigation into what has already been proved to be a perfectly good title.

While the Law Society rummages upon this proposal, the inland Revenue is sitting on another idea of his to offer a bonus as a prize in a regular Abbey lottery.

Elsewhere one of the country's largest house builders has been given a proposal to study that the building society should guarantee to buy, at a small discount, any house remaining unsold from a programme of new building starts. Such houses, Mr. Thornton points out, could be absorbed into Abbey's rental portfolio.

Abbey's official expansion is not confined to this country. Within weeks of Mr. Thornton taking office, Abbey opened its—and the building society movement's—first branch office overseas in East Africa. The branch plan was finalized whereby Abbey will act as the society's agents in two military bases in Germany from next January.

And as legislation extending building societies' freedom to operate overseas has been postponed, Mr. Thornton has advocated other foreign lending institutions about reciprocal arrangements and has also begun to consider the possibility of a subsidiary or associated company operating overseas now that the precedent for a building society corporate company has been established with the Abbey Housing Association.

Far from slackening Abbey's momentum under Mr. Thornton seems to be gathering space. Whether his influence will be confined to the one society alone or spread to the rest of the movement, remains to be seen.

Margaret Stone

Canine investment adviser at Great Grimpen

The half-finished account of the latest Great Grimpen Mire Investment Club Committee meeting has already indicated the possibility of greater involvement in non-Stock Exchange securities such as gold, works of art and the like.

Regular readers will recall that the story was left hanging at a crucial moment, the committee being divided between the traditionalists and the radicals, with a hard core of don't-knows in the middle consisting of Lady Baskerville, Agatha Sibling and Ada Blott.

However, even more regular readers will recall that these three ladies have been caught with the notion that, because of a psychic intervention by the Hound of the Baskervilles itself, Lady Baskerville's pet dachshund, Poggles, a large proportion of the funds of the Great Grimpen Mire Investment Club ought to be invested in sugar futures.

Such was not, however, by then apparent to either of the male protagonist groups which were struggling innocently with locked ankles over the whole



question. At this particular juncture, Miss Sibling caught the chairman's eye, Miss Sibling, Hon Secretary, is a universal sun and a universal cousin—being connected by ties of blood or marriage to practically everybody.

Her nephew, Adrian Lastworth, of moribund banks, Wolfbane Lastworth, has been theoretically responsible for the investment management of the portfolio to date—without, of course, any real success. He could safely say, the value of funds under management having declined from £120,000 to £80,000 under his jurisdiction.

"I think I ought to draw the committee's attention to the situation at Wolfbane Lastworth's, our portfolio manager," said Miss Sibling.

Unfortunately there has been a serious internal dispute within the bank. On the one side is the nineteenth century faction led by Adrian himself, whose family were friends of Disraeli's and all that. Against him are pitted the eighteenth century faction of Moses de Wolfbane, very much of the rough, tough and tuffish school of commerce.

"The pressure of argument grew so great that the actual business of the bank was left to lie fallow—hence, through no fault of my nephew's, I'm sure, our portfolio valuation has shrunk by a third in the last two months."

"We have now been advised by Mr. de Wolfbane, who I regret to say has apparently carried the day in the internal battle for control, that since our holdings are worth less than the bank's minimum of £100,000 they find themselves unable to act as our managers any longer. He therefore asks us to 'reconsider' all our investments from their 'new' point of view as soon as possible."

There was a brief consultation as the dreadful news was absorbed. The committee, reeled back in different directions, it was the moment for Ada Blott to put her oar in.

"I remember when Lady Baskerville's dachshund Poggles made it all very clear to those of us who were sensitive," (she glared balefully around at the rest of them, and since she had never been known to be a crumbler, nobody was inclined to argue. "If you ask me we ought to leave the investment management to her. Dogs, always know."

The room cleared his throat but then thought better of it. "Well, damn me," muttered Ada Blott, "I couldn't mind Poggles's advice."

Colonel Grog-Berlington, feeling that things were getting out of his control as chairman, tried to impose some kind of sanity on the meeting. "Probably there should be an interim period," he said, "in which we decide what to do in the circumstances. Has anyone any suggestions?"

"As a matter of fact I have a very good one," chimed in Lady Baskerville, "something like a session being played under the aegis of Poggles. Has made everything very clear to several of us here, as Ada Blott has mentioned already. What we ought to be in is sugar futures, according to Poggles. There was a collective gasp of horror. "How convenient," beamed Agatha Sibling. "Now that he's left the bank, Adrian is going to set up as a commodity broker. It must be true."

Francis Kinsman

Earnings-related invalidity pensions • Recovering hire car costs

Could you please tell me whether a person in receipt of an invalidity pension is entitled to have his weekly amount linked to the most recent salary payment? The person concerned (my wife) has been obliged to give up her teaching post through illness (JW, Dyfed).

Provided that the National Insurance contribution requirements are met, invalidity pensions in addition to the flat rate benefit, now include an earnings-related element but it is not linked to the most recent salary payment. As the arrangements began only in April, 1978, the amount of earnings-related benefit is as yet fairly small.

The method of calculation is rather complicated, but in principle it is related to earnings between the "lower earnings level" and the "upper earnings level", which in 1978/79 were £17.50 and £120 a week; for 1979/80 they increased to £19.50 and £135 a week. The earnings between these limits for a year, other than the most recent one, are adjusted for the change in national average earnings to preserve their value in real terms. The earnings-related element (until the scheme has been running for 20 years) is

11 per cent of this total adjusted amount. Only complete fiscal years up to the date the invalidity pension begins are allowed to count towards the calculation of its amount. Once the earnings-related element starts to be paid, it qualifies for increases annually in line with the cost of living index. The level of the flat-rate element is, of course, also reviewed annually.

I am, or at least my car is, a victim of criminal damage. I have been wondering if anybody can advise me.

Eleven weeks ago my car was the receiver of over £1,500 worth of damage after a police chase of a stolen car driven by two men who had made an attempted bank robbery. The stolen car crashed late mine and taking them to court will legally pay me a considerable amount.

In consultation with my insurance company, the police and my solicitor, I find I cannot receive any financial compensation towards the hire costs of another vehicle which is essential for my work. The final bill for these costs will be total over £466.



Readers' Forum

My insurance company has agreed to pay the damage costs, with reservations, but I am worried about the other sum as this means I have to sacrifice the much needed interest from my savings. As the criminals are without money or possessions the police say it would be like drawing blood from a stone and taking them to court will only cost me a considerable amount.

I must be one of hundreds of similar cases and it would be comforting to know just what help might be available. I understand, too late, that there are only a few insurance companies which will insure for this particular liability and, for the future, it would be helpful

This specialist readers service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

to know which they are. (K. T. Tenbridge).

Unfortunately, you are quite right in appreciating that there is really nothing helpful which you can do on this occasion. For the future, many insurers are not at all sure they provided the extra cover (to offset hire costs) if they do not have the basic motor insurance. Since they would have no control over the length of time which the repairs to the car would take.

Try your own insurance company for a start. The General Accident is a master of cover, provides for the free use of a Godfrey Davis hire car for up to a fortnight at no extra cost under its motor policy. You might find it worth changing

to the General Accident. St Christopher Motorists' Security Association offers this cover as part of a "package" of extra insurance for motorists. Normally, a claim for the hire car will not be paid for longer than about a month.

I was most interested to read the reply given to FS. Both on your page (August 16) regarding single premium life insurance policies and would be grateful if you could explain the situation as regards my own situation.

I invested £1,000 in a single premium policy in May, 1976, and have taken out four annual withdrawals of £100 each. I have recently been advised that the surrender value of the policy is approximately £500 and I would therefore make an overall loss if I should cash the policy in now.

I would be grateful if you could inform me as to how the relief mentioned in your reply would apply in my case. (JPS, Chelmsford).

We assume that, when making your four annual withdrawals of £100 each (as each exceeded 5 per cent of the initial amount of capital invested), you

were not paying higher rate tax, or investment income surcharge, and these withdrawals did not bring you into that bracket. In that case it would appear that you have no tax to pay, and, equally, no relief can be claimed. The "relief" to which you refer applies to the method of calculating the tax payable. It does not mean that tax can be reclaimed in any way when realization of a single premium policy results in an investment loss.

Can a donee accepting a gift make use of his £3,000 exemption if he is the seller of the asset which has been transferred under the "roll-over" exemption? This would seem to be logical, if the intention is to bring it into line with transfers made on death. The liability to pay the tax on a further disposal must surely be linked to the circumstances at the time of that disposal and not to the position of the donee at the time of the original disposal. For example, there might be a lower tax liability to pay the tax on a further disposal if the donee, at the time when the asset was transferred, was in the position of a donee, that counts, does this

mean that a gift of a house or flat to a son or daughter for occupation as a main residence would be exempt if it were to be disposed of after transfer, if at the time of the second disposal, it was in use by the donee as the main residence. This is an important point because the only means of such a transfer at the moment is by division of the property into "shares", which are then transferred. A bit at a time each year to take account of the donor's exemption. Again, if I am right, what happens in the case of a donee who then goes to work overseas? They can presumably "escape" gains tax even if they sell their total holding, provided they are "not normally resident" for tax purposes. (SS, Bicklingham).

It is now possible for a woman making the gift and the donor to elect jointly that the asset should be transferred at no gain or loss to the donor, with the donee taking over the donee's base cost for capital gains tax liability to capital gains tax. This is a new rule, only on the position of the donee at the time when the subsequently makes a disposal.

If the donee has not made other chargeable gains for that year then the £3,000 annual exemption applies. Similarly, if the property consists of a house and by the donee's sole or main residence throughout his period of ownership, then the gain arising to him will be exempt.

One word of warning: the new relief for gifts applies only if the donee is resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom at the time of the gift. However, it is subsequently "leaves" the United Kingdom and becomes neither resident nor ordinarily resident, then no capital gains tax may be charged on a disposal at such a time. On the question of residence and so on, you should obtain a copy of the Inland Revenue booklet IR24: Residence and Non-Residence: Leaving UK Tax. It is interesting to note that in Canada there is an "exit tax" which is a deemed capital gain which is chargeable when a person ceases to be ordinarily resident there. Our capital gains tax is full of anomalies, but, if ever, were reformed and made "logical", some similar rule might be introduced.

trust sale September

Margaret Stone

Francis Kinsman

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Points to watch at renewal time

Trust sales peak September

Bank Base Rates

usk	16%
.....	16%
.....	16%
ated Credits	16%
Co.	16%
Bank	16%
Bank	16%
minister	16%
ster	16%
.....	16%
and Glyn's	16%
doppel on basis of	16%
over	16%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
 1st Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821-1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Ch's	Gross Div's	% of	P/E
Airspang Group	41	-1	6.7	16.3	2.8
Armistage & Rhodes	23	+2	1.4	6.1	9.5
Bardon Hill	175	+1	9.7	5.5	6.6
Country Cars Pref	71	-3	15.3	21.6	—
Deborah Ord	85	—	7.9	6.8	4.7
Frank Horsell	117	—	11.0	6.8	3.7
Frederick Parker	85	✓	7.0	16.9	3.0
George Blair	79	-1	3.1	3.9	—
Jackson Group	65	—	6.0	7.1	3.2
James Burrough	120	-1	9.7	6.6	9.8
Robert Jenkins	305	-5	31.3	10.3	—
Torday Limited	219	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
Twinlock Ord	104	—	—	—	—
Twinlock 15% ULS	82	—	15.0	18.3	—
Unlock Holdings	39	-1	3.0	7.7	6.0
Walter Alexander	88	—	5.7	5.0	5.4
W. S. Yeates	238	-2	12.1	5.1	3.9

not prepared under provision of SSAP15.

Institutional buying boosts equities

But shares showed faint
around the 10 to 15 and 24000
of Treasury 3 per cent 1985 at
1724 presented itself.

Leading - industrials were
quick to seize on the attention
given to ICI. Benchmarks rose 2p
to 277, while a good number of
others, having underperformed
the market by around 10 per
cent recently. Other rises in-
cluded Glaxo 2p to 244p. Fisons
up to 200p and Hawker Siddeley
up 10p to 220p. The main
drift of recent figures, however,
Organisation slipped 2p to 178p
on a profit-taking. Having formally
denied it was about to sell one
of its properties in London Wall,
the company had been bought by an
international firm up 3p to 187p
ahead of figures next Tuesday,
while Bovater continued its
recent strong run with a rise of
5p to 250p.

Extremals encountered
a small amount of profit-taking
after a good run all week and
prices closed generally easier.
The one exception, was GEC,
a proscruger at 570p.

Shares in the FT 100 fell 5p,
to 242p, Plimsley up 2 1/2p, while
where EMI shed a similar
amount to 352p. Among second-

Company at or via	Sales in 1961 (\$m.)	Profits in 1961 (\$m.)	Earnings per share 1961	Div paid 1961	Pay data 1961	Year's dividend
Amoco (I)	110.0 (36.5)	3,225 (3.39)	1.54 (2.05)	1.11 (1.3)	7-1	(5.1)
Amstar Paper (I)	24.8 (22.6)	1,241 (1.15)	38.5 (4.5)	3.40	5-12	4.0 (3.3)
Amstar Chemical (I)	2.39 (3.1)	0.17 (0.22)	—	—	—	—
Amstar Scottish (I)	—	0.51 (0.4)	1.63 (1.2)	1.11	6-1	1.0
Amstar Klet (I)	8.64 (7.35)	0.37 (0.61)	—	1.0 (1.5)	3-1	1.0 (1.5)
Amstar Klet and G. (I)	—	0.05 (0.03)	6.6 (7.1)	1.0 (1.1)	5-12	—
Amstar Drydock (I)	2.56 (2.59)	0.17 (0.1)	—	—	—	—
Amstar European (I)	—	0.12 (0.18)	—	—	—	—
Amstar Sauris (I)	2.6 (1.7)	2.8 (2.9)	5.9 (5.2)	1.7 (1.7)	5-12	(6.5)
Amstar Union (I)	5.6 (2.1)	0.17 (0.03)	—	0.3 (0.75)	—	—
Amstar Eastern (I)	12.7 (11.1)	0.1 (0.2)	—	—	—	—


Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pounds per share. Elsewhere in Business News standards are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.424. Profits are shown

Central & S

Trading profits were markedly lower in all sectors.

Dr. Francis Singer, the chairman, said that the biggest current payment was almost entirely attributable to higher interest rates. After falling last year, borrowings had been pushed up slightly again by the increase in turnover and heavy losses.

Turnover was 152.2m, compared with 139.5m. But sales in distribution, printing and publishing and financial ser-



Francis Singer, chairman of Central & Sheerwood, said the price increase came from engineering work, which rose from £25.3m to £27.7m.

Engineering profits, however, were much reduced by the strength of the pound against the dollar, in which exports are priced, and by requests from some customers that delivery orders be delayed.

Nevertheless, Dr Singer said

Rothschild dispute resolved

Philip Robinson

The public feud among the Rothschild family, one of the oldest and wealthiest in the world, erupted yesterday when the family announced that it was to sell the family name to RIT.

The feud erupted early last month over the commercial use of the family name by a faction headed by Mr. Jacob Rothschild, 47, who is the youngest of the five Rothschild brothers. Mr. Jacob Rothschild announced to other shareholders that he had been named as a director of the RIT, N. M. Rothschild, and that RIT wanted to sell its name.

An agreement made 10 years ago and written into RIT's articles of association states that if there is no longer consensus among the five brothers on the investment trust, the brother who would have the right to demand that the name of the trust be changed.

Mr. Jacob Rothschild's association, N. M. Rothschild & Sons, is to procure the passing of a special resolution no matter how many votes are cast against it.

According to the agreement, the bank voted to support the change of name by the following yesterday's meeting: Mr. Jacob Rothschild, 47, who is the youngest of the five brothers, the investment trust, but the holding company will be called J. Rothschild & Sons—the name that appears on the group's business

Mr Moran explains refusal to resign

Our Financial Staff

In a letter to shareholders of Lloyd's of London insurance broker Christopher Moran, former chief executive of the company, Mr Moran says his usual role as board president was to ensure that the company's activities were under investigation stems from his assumption that, without his assistance, the major part of the company's business will disappear.

The letter, sent yesterday, follows a resolution by the other directors to remove Mr Moran from the board. This will be subject to shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on October 31.

Mr Moran, who took over Lloyd's insurance broking in 1985, is a fully professional business, of which the other directors of the company have little knowledge.

In a counter-letter to shareholders, Mr Moran says that, as chairman, Lord Hall, in damage has already been done to the broking business.

His letter rejects Mr Moran's claim that the company's business is collapsing, and expresses a fear that while underwriting agencies' business is in no way dependent on Mr Moran, his continued presence in the company would affect these operations.

The letter claims that several of the company's underwriters, of the Lloyd's syndicates, managed by Mr Moran, are now alarmed to leave the company, they would not wish to

Record rise at American Brands

merican Brands' net income by 26 per cent from £2m (£104.5m) to a record £1.5m in the first nine months to September 30. After United Kingdom tax of, down from £27.9m to £1.5m, net income in the third quarter slipped from \$114.5m to \$113.3m. Profits for the nine months

t America

International

onoco sharply lower

added that a \$32.6m and Kinross tax benefits in

lower

net earnings for the nine-month period were \$785.6m, compared with \$624.7m. Operating revenue for the third quarter was \$4,500m against \$4.1m. Nine months revenues were \$13,500m against \$9,300m.

Strong pound hits Berec Group's half-year profits

By Our Financial Staff

Betec Group, the Ever Ready batteries company, has boosted its profits by 10% in its first half. But the strong pound has left margins almost non-existent.

As its figures have swung back to the heavy seasonal figures that characterized the company's figures before its expansion into overseas markets, Forster says that August 30 tax profits rose to £14.5m from £3.1m to £3.2m, and the board expects the full-year figure to be broadly similar to last year's. The company's operating profit is £14m in the second half.

Turnover rose from £95.5m to £110.1m with exports accounting for £30m.

At the trading level profits were up from £7.4m to £5.8m, but interest charges jumped from £600,000 to £2.5m, as a result both of increased interest rates and the company's decision to push ahead with its capital spending programme, which will cost some £22m this year.

This has left a substantial increase in borrowing, and will be reflected in the full-year balance sheet.

The ravages of inflation are more starkly reflected in the current year's profit-and-loss account produced with the interim figures. This shows a £2.6m pretax loss after charges of £5.3m for depreciation, and £1.2m for amortisation, against £500,000 for monetary working capital. The gearing adjustment adds back £2.2m.



Mr. C. G. Stapleton, chairman and chief executive of Berenson Group.

Mr Colin Stapleton, the chairman, said the current cost figures were now being taken into account as the company was working at a loss. They are inevitably hard on a company such as Rerec because of its high level of added value in processing raw materials such as magnesium into finished products. The company in the last balance sheet stood at £81.5m against a turnover of £220m.

The interim dividend is maintained at 1.56p, identical along with the board's profits forecast, to the full year figure should be maintained at 7.85p giving the shares at 89p, down 4p yesterday, a yield of 8.8 per cent.

Spirax-Sarco down slightly at interim

By Our Financial Staff

Spirax-Sarco Engineering, which specializes in energy conservation equipment, has held its own against the recession, the steel strike and the pound with interim profits only marginally down.

In the six months to June 30 interim profits rose from £2.9m to £3.2m on turnover up from £18.7m to £20.4m. Trading profits were up from £3.2m to £3.3m, but interest charges took £1.61m against £285,000.

Mr. Anthony Brown, the chairman, commented that he considered the figures "satisfactory".

The United Kingdom recession continued to cause problems and the Drayton company, which supports the industrial instruments and process control markets, is being closed with the loss of 350 jobs over the next six months.

Reed International to buy carton maker

Reed International and J. Dring have agreed terms for Dring to offer to acquire Dring and its subsidiaries for \$5.8m cash.

The board of Dring is unanimously recommending acceptance of the offer. The board and other principal shareholders of Dring holding more than 99 per cent of the share capital have agreed to accept the offer in respect of their own shareholdings. Dring, a private company based at Portsmouth, is engaged predominantly in the production of cardboard cartons, and will operate as part of Field, Sons and Co, Reed's carton subsidiary.

Surgess advances despite strikes

Although its results were affected by strikes in the engineering and steel industries, Burgess Products (Holdings) has edged its pretax profits ahead from £1.15m to £1.24m for the year to August 22. Turnover went up from £22.6m to £24.8m. Earnings a share rose from 14.5p to 18.5p, while the gross dividend is 5.7p against 385p.

The board explains that internal action largely overcame the setback. However, the strength sterling substantially reduced profits at two of the subsidiaries the second half, and since

Commodities

[illegible]

cast. 18 hard winter. 13', pay cont:
low. 4102.25. Dr. 4102.75 trans-

[illegible]

MARKET REPORTS

Discount market

The 5125m "call" on Exchange, 12 per cent, 1980 "A", was the chief reason that the Bank of England had to give help on an extremely large scale in the discount market. This assistance was provided chiefly by outright purchases of bills, a small quantity of Treasury bills bought from banks and houses and, from the houses alone, a small number of local authority bills along with a large quantity of eligible bank bills.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Market rates (pence)	Market rates (pence)
New York 2.4375-4500	October 24 2.4375-4500
London 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Frankfurt 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Paris 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Switzerland 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Italy 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Spain 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Portugal 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Greece 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Turkey 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
India 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Japan 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
South Africa 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Argentina 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Chile 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Colombia 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Costa Rica 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Cuba 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Czechoslovakia 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Denmark 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
France 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Germany 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Ghana 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Gibraltar 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Greece 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Hong Kong 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
India 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Indonesia 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Italy 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Japan 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Korea 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Malaysia 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Mexico 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Netherlands 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Philippines 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Poland 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Portugal 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Romania 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
South Africa 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Spain 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Sweden 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Switzerland 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Taiwan 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Tanzania 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Thailand 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Turkey 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Uganda 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
United Kingdom 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
United States 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500
Yugoslavia 2.4375-4500	2.4375-4500

Effective exchange rate compared to December 31, 1971, was 78.9% up 0.2%.

Indices

Bank of England	Foreign	Exchange
Steel 100	100	100
Chemical 100	100	100
Food 100	100	100
Textile 100	100	100
Metals 100	100	100
Engineering 100	100	100
Transport 100	100	100
Public 100	100	100
Finance 100	100	100
Real 100	100	100
World 100	100	100
Asia 100	100	100
Europe 100	100	100
Latin 100	100	100
Middle 100	100	100
Africa 100	100	100
South 100	100	100
East 100	100	100
Central 100	100	100
North 100	100	100
West 100	100	100
South 100	100	100
East 100	100	100
Central 100	100	100
North 100	100	100
West 100	100	100

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement.

Bank of England index 100.

EMS Currency Rates

ECU	currency	% change	% change
Belgium franc	33.7887	0.0004	0.0004
Dutch guilder	3.7603	0.0003	0.0003
French franc	6.5596	0.0002	0.0002
Italian lire	1.936	0.0001	0.0001
Spanish peseta	166.637	0.0001	0.0001
Portuguese escudo	200.482	0.0001	0.0001
Irish punt	7.8756	0.0001	0.0001
Greek drachma	340.750	0.0001	0.0001
Maltese lira	1.3653	0.0001	0.0001
German mark	3.5360	0.0001	0.0001
Austrian schilling	13.7603	0.0001	0.0001
Swiss franc	2.0	0.0001	0.0001
Norwegian krone	4.756	0.0001	0.0001
Danish kroner	13.46	0.0001	0.0001
Swedish krona	13.7603	0.0001	0.0001
Yen	137.74	0.0001	0.0001

Changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.

Adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the wider divergence limits.

Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-\$ Deposits

12% call, 12% 12-month, 12% 18-month, 12% 24-month, 12% 36-month, 12% 48-month, 12% 60-month, 12% 72-month, 12% 84-month, 12% 96-month, 12% 108-month, 12% 120-month, 12% 132-month, 12% 144-month, 12% 156-month, 12% 168-month, 12% 180-month, 12% 192-month, 12% 204-month, 12% 216-month, 12% 228-month, 12% 240-month, 12% 252-month, 12% 264-month, 12% 276-month, 12% 288-month, 12% 300-month, 12% 312-month, 12% 324-month, 12% 336-month, 12% 348-month, 12% 360-month, 12% 372-month, 12% 384-month, 12% 396-month, 12% 408-month, 12% 420-month, 12% 432-month, 12% 444-month, 12% 456-month, 12% 468-month, 12% 480-month, 12% 492-month, 12% 504-month, 12% 516-month, 12% 528-month, 12% 540-month, 12% 552-month, 12% 564-month, 12% 576-month, 12% 588-month, 12% 600-month, 12% 612-month, 12% 624-month, 12% 636-month, 12% 648-month, 12% 660-month, 12% 672-month, 12% 684-month, 12% 696-month, 12% 708-month, 12% 720-month, 12% 732-month, 12% 744-month, 12% 756-month, 12% 768-month, 12% 780-month, 12% 792-month, 12% 804-month, 12% 816-month, 12% 828-month, 12% 840-month, 12% 852-month, 12% 864-month, 12% 876-month, 12% 888-month, 12% 900-month, 12% 912-month, 12% 924-month, 12% 936-month, 12% 948-month, 12% 960-month, 12% 972-month, 12% 984-month, 12% 996-month, 12% 1008-month, 12% 1020-month, 12% 1032-month, 12% 1044-month, 12% 1056-month, 12% 1068-month, 12% 1080-month, 12% 1092-month, 12% 1104-month, 12% 1116-month, 12% 1128-month, 12% 1140-month, 12% 1152-month, 12% 1164-month, 12% 1176-month, 12% 1188-month, 12% 1200-month, 12% 1212-month, 12% 1224-month, 12% 1236-month, 12% 1248-month, 12% 1260-month, 12% 1272-month, 12% 1284-month, 12% 1296-month, 12% 1308-month, 12% 1320-month, 12% 1332-month, 12% 1344-month, 12% 1356-month, 12% 1368-month, 12% 1380-month, 12% 1392-month, 12% 1404-month, 12% 1416-month, 12% 1428-month, 12% 1440-month, 12% 1452-month, 12% 1464-month, 12% 1476-month, 12% 1488-month, 12% 1500-month, 12% 1512-month, 12% 1524-month, 12% 1536-month, 12% 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3036-month, 12% 3048-month, 12% 3060-month, 12% 3072-month, 12% 3084-month, 12% 3096-month, 12% 3108-month, 12% 3120-month, 12% 3132-month, 12% 3144-month, 12% 3156-month, 12% 3168-month, 12% 3180-month, 12% 3192-month, 12% 3204-month, 12% 3216-month, 12% 3228-month, 12% 3240-month, 12% 3252-month, 12% 3264-month, 12% 3276-month, 12% 3288-month, 12% 3300-month, 12% 3312-month, 12% 3324-month, 12% 3336-month, 12% 3348-month, 12% 3360-month, 12% 3372-month, 12% 3384-month, 12% 3396-month, 12% 3408-month, 12% 3420-month, 12% 3432-month, 12% 3444-month, 12% 3456-month, 12% 3468-month, 12% 3480-month, 12% 3492-month, 12% 3504-month, 12% 3516-month, 12% 3528-month, 12% 3540-month, 12% 3552-month, 12% 3564-month, 12% 3576-month, 12% 3588-month, 12% 3600-month, 12% 3612-month, 12% 3624-month, 12% 3636-month, 12% 3648-month, 12% 3660-month, 12% 3672-month, 12% 3684-month, 12% 3696-month, 12% 3708-month, 12% 3720-month, 12% 3732-month, 12% 3744-month, 12% 3756-month, 12% 3768-month, 12% 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Regina v Kelly and Others
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice Stalker and
Mr Justice Gledhill

Three British passengers aboard a Danish ship on the high seas were charged with having destroyed fittings in the ship were properly convicted of offences contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

On Appeal, in a reserved judgment, dismissed appeals by William Robert Kelly, aged 21, David John Stoyan, aged 23, Stephen Paul Avison, aged 20, all of Newcastle upon Tyne, against conviction at Newcastle Crown Court. (Judge Stoyan, QC) of offences contrary to section 1(1). They had pleaded guilty and asked for sentence on a preliminary issue. Each appellant was made the subject of a community sentence and ordered to pay £500 compensation.

deputed to the indictment on the ground of lack of jurisdiction of any court in England and Wales. The appellants' defence was that the damage was done with a preliminary issue. The appellants' contentions were rejected and pleas of guilty entered.

Lord Stalker based his argument on the propositions: (1) an act which, if committed in England, would be an offence under the Criminal Damage Act was not an offence if committed by a British subject on the high seas; and (2) if that was wrong, a passenger on such a ship was "a person belonging to the ship" and therefore not committed within section 66(1).

Mr Robson submitted that "an offence meant that it was an offence against English law."

The words "an offence"

The court certified that "a point of law of great public interest was involved in the decision: "Whether English law, and particularly the Admiralty jurisdiction, extends to the acts of British subjects when passengers aboard foreign ships on foreign waters." The English courts have power to try such persons for such acts by virtue of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, or any other rule of law. It is not necessary to leave to appeal to the House of Lords and for legal aid to petitioners for such leave were refused.

"Where any person, being
British subject, is charged with
having committed an offence
on board any foreign ship
to which he does not belong
... and that person is ...
within the jurisdiction of any
court in Her Majesty's domin-
ions ... that court shall have
jurisdiction to try that offence."

Mr. R. M. Stewart, QC, and Mr. C. S. A. Rich (assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellants; Mr. David Robson, QC, and Mr. Neilson, QC, for the respondents.

THE JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that in November, 1978, the three appellants were travelling from Esbjerg, in Denmark, to Norway. Shipboard marks showed that the ship Winston Churchill, owned by a Danish company. The facts alleged by the prosecution were that the appellants were guilty of vandalism which damaged or destroyed the fittings and were committed on the high seas formed the subject of a writ of habeas corpus for the appellants. Before argument, counsel for the appellants submitted that the phrase "on the high seas" had a primary meaning in the context of section 568. In that context, the phrase "on the high seas" had no reasonable or objectively perceived attachment to the ship. The phrase was wide enough to include not only the ship but also persons who were on the ship for substantial time for some other purpose, e.g. scientists or engineers engaged in exploration or research. The appellants did not include persons who were passengers engaged on a passenger ferry and were only on the ship for a short time. The appellants did not "belong to" the Winston Churchill when they committed the offences charged.

The judge dismissed the writ. Solicitors: Mr. D. E. Brown, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Rogina Longman
Regina v. Cribben
Lord Launce, Lord Chief
Justice, Mr Justice Stocker and
Mr Justice Gidweld
When two persons are
charged with conspiring with
each other and no one else a
judge is no longer necessary if they must
convict both conspirators or
acquit both.
The House of Appeal so held
when giving a reserved judg-
ment allowing an appeal by
Ronald Cribben, 27, against
his co-conspirator, Roger
Millican, Essex, and
dismissing an appeal by Victor
David Cribben, 26, against
his co-conspirator, Ernest
Chelmsford, Essex, against conviction
at Chelmsford Crown
Court (Judge Bill-Smith)
of conspiring to defraud.
Longman had been sentenced
to six months' imprisonment
and ordered to pay £750 costs.
Millican was sentenced to
three months' imprisonment
and ordered to pay £100 costs.
Cribben was sentenced to
three months' imprisonment
and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Mr Victor Levene for adequate evidence of guilt, they should convict and acquit B.

There was no reason why jury should not understand such a direction.

Where at the close of

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the prosecution's case against the appellants was based on the evidence of a salesman who ran a garage and car sales business—that they had conspired to defraud the insurance company of £3,323 by making a false claim over the theft of a car.

The evidence was mostly circumstantial, but the judge, in his charge to the jury, hotly denied any of the allegations and denied any fraud. The case against Cribben, in addition to circumstantial evidence, was a confession of a full confession which stated, in terms, that he had, in fact, conspired with the other appellants to defraud the insurance company.

The complaint on appeal was that the judge had misdirected the jury in respect of the special verdict. He had, apparently, based his direction on DPP v Shannon (1975) AC 712 and the statements in *Reading v Reading & Practice* (40th ed, 1979, para 4081): "...[per Lord Reid, Lord Morris and Lord Goff]... If A and B are together and one of them is guilty for conspiring together and no one else, the judge should summing up should still give effect to the old rule [i.e. guilty or both not guilty] save (per Lord Salmon) in the most

exceptional cases. "It is the present the "old rule" might well work: injustices. The jury would act on Cribben's statements and consider his case and disregard the statement when considering Longman's case. The evidence against Longman was very strong. I might conclude that Cribben was plainly guilty but could not feel sure about Longman and would have liked to have acquitted him. If either would have to acquit guilty Cribben or convict Longman who, on the evidence, was entitled to be acquitted. Either was incompatible with justice.

"If a judge were to give the 'both guilty or both not guilty' direction that the jury felt unsure about the guilt of either they had to acquit both a course of action which in *Hobnes* (1980) 1 WLR 1052).

Since section 5(8) and (9) of the Criminal Law Act 1977, the trial judge was no longer obliged to direct a jury that they must convict both conspirators or acquit both.

When a trial judge was faced with the task of directing a jury in a case where the evidence was unclear as to the charge

could not be upheld by giving the proviso to section 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1967, the ground of miscarriage of justice occurred. His appeal a conviction had no miscarriage of justice quashed.

Had the jury been given separate verdict directions then would have been no miscarriage of justice. His statement was not confused, and his appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Michael Gold & Co.
Barristers: Mr. T. H. Jones, Chelmsford.

decurred to the indictment on the ground of lack of jurisdiction of any court in England and Wales, and that the appellants, as a preliminary issue. The appellants' contentions were rejected and pleas of guilty entered.

Lord Hale, Lord Steward based his argument on the propositions: (1) an act which, if committed in England, would be an offence against the common law. The Damage Act was not an offence triable by an English court if committed by a British subject in England; and (2) if that was wrong, a passenger on such a ship was "a person belonging to the ship" and was not a citizen of the United Kingdom within section 63(1).

Mr Robson submitted that "an offence" meant an act which was an offence against English law. The words "an offence"

mean an offence against English law. The subsection embraced all such offences and gave jurisdiction to the courts in this country to try such an offence if it was shown to have been committed by a British subject on a foreign ship on the high seas. Section 536 gave the English courts extra-territorial jurisdiction which was additional to the common law admiralty jurisdiction and to the jurisdiction given by specific provisions.

Mr Stewart submitted that not only the master and crew but also "passengers" belonged to the ship. He relied on *The Fusilier* (1865) Brown & Lush, 11 L. R. 229, a case in which

Dr Lushington held passengers stranded in a gale to be "persons belonging to the ship" the decision was upheld by the Privy Council, and it was followed in *The Sarpedon* (1877 3 PD 28).

ary meaning in the context of section 588, in that context those persons "belong to the vessel who had a reasonable person's attachment to the phrase was wide enough to include not only the master and crew but persons who were on the ship for substantial time for some other purpose, scientists or engineers engaged in exploratory work, persons who were not included on a passenger ferry and were only on the ship for a short voyage. The appellants did not "belong to the vessel," Churchill when they committed the offence charged.

The appeals were dismissed. Solicitors: Mr D. E. Brown, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**: direction
re charged**

was that A and B conspired together but with no one else to commit a crime. The defense attorneys, by involving the jury in the defense, as a general rule, have to tell the jury that there is no conspiracy between A and B, that each defendant acted separately.

Where the strength of the evidence against each was markedly different, usually in the instant case because of the different evidence against the judge should then so explain that because the evidence against A was stronger than the evidence against each, the jury might conclude that the prosecution had proved a conspiracy with A, that A conspired with B, but had conspired against B that way so that the jury would not appear to be illogical.

It was the necessary result of the rules to make the jury ruled to ensure fairness.

Therefore, the jury were told that A conspired with B, but that B did not conspire with A.

There was adequate evidence of guilt, they should convict and acquit B.

There was no reason why jury should not understand such a direction.

Where at the close of

prosecution case the evidence against one of the defendants was such that it would be safe to ask any jury to convict the judge should so rule in the case could then continue against the other defendant.

There would be cases where the evidence against A amounted to the equal weight or more so. There might then be a finding of inconsistent verdicts, and the judge should direct the jury that, because of the similarity of the evidence against A and the only just verdict would be the same verdict in respect of each. He had to be careful to add, however, that if they were unsure about the evidence of one, then both had to be acquitted.

Whether he gave such direction would depend on the way in which the evidence emerged. The first question was whether the evidence was such that a verdict of guilty in respect of A and not guilty in respect of B would be, in the interests and purposes, inexpedient and therefore inconsistent with justice. If so it would be necessary to give the "both guilty or not guilty" direction. If not then the separate verdict direction was required.

The judge in the present case never had his attention directed

to the problem, after the prosecution nor defence drew his attention to section 5 of the Criminal Law Act. Had he been alerted, he might have concluded that the proper course in the circumstances was to give the separate verdict direction. Had he so, Longman might well have been acquitted and convicted. He had given the "old direction" but omitted to add that he should have added, that the jury were to doubt the guilt of either they should acquit both.

On any view the direction so far as Longman was concerned was wrong. The

could not be upheld by a majority of the judges sitting the proviso to section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act, 1968, on the ground that the miscarriage of justice had not occurred. His appeal against conviction had to be allowed and his conviction quashed.

Had the jury been given a separate verdict, direction or summing up, it is probable that they would have been convinced by the direction about reliability of the evidence that his statement was not untrue, and his appeal would have been dismissed.

Solicitors: Michael Gold & Co, Ilford; Mr T. H. Jones, Chemsford.

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CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Is this your year for a Noël prize for literature? It could be if you enter our Christmas Competition. All it takes is a little creative imagination as you read through the feature. And while you're picking out presents to fill other people's Christmas stockings, you could end up filling your own. With one of the fabulous prizes pictured below.

C. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonitas Havana Cigars.
D. Three bottles of Croft Distinction Port and a 1lb stone jar of finest siltion cheese.
E. A 2lb box of Boites-Blanches chocolates by Charbonnel and Walker.

HOW TO ENTER

First study the Countdown carefully. Then answer in full three simple questions. (The answers are all in today's advertisements.)

Next write your 150-word letter to Father Christmas, from one of the Christmas characters in this list:

The Fairy on top of the Christmas Tree.
Rudolf the Reindeer.
The Pantomime Horse.
Cinderella.
King Wenceslas.
Scrooge.

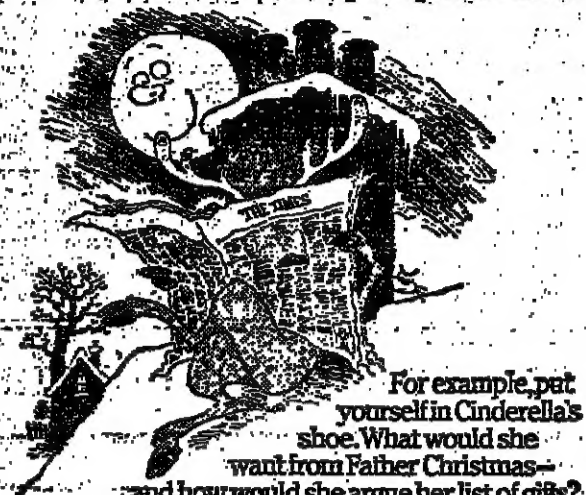
(The "presents" need not be limited to today's advertisements, nor indeed to the laws of historical possibility.)

Then send us your letter, enclosing your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day we publish a Christmas feature. The closing date for today's competition is Thursday October 30th, 1980.

Post the completed entry to:
THE TIMES CHRISTMAS COMPETITION No. 1,
12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YL.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times, plus a selection of the winning entries. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.



For example, put yourself in Cinderella's shoe. What would she want from Father Christmas... and how would she argue her list of gifts? Or take Scrooge. Or Rudolf. Or the Fairy on top of the Christmas Tree. King Wenceslas or the Pantomime Horse. Then write a 150-word letter to Father Christmas, justifying your chosen character's Christmas list. And pick a prize for yourself from the list below. A 6x1 1/2 bottles of Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Brut Champagne. B. A drink selection comprising: 1 bottle Croft Distinction Port; 1 bottle Croft Original Sherry; 1 bottle Le Plat de Beaujolais 1979; 1 bottle Le Plat de Macon Vire 1978.



Illustration by Graham Smith, published by the Times

5 SUPER SAVERS FOR CHRISTMAS FROM CAVENDISH

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Our Price £184.95 Compact 352 New 1/2 inch Compact Cassette recorder with 4 tape compartments, 4000 hours of playing time, built-in speaker, 100% power output, 100% power output, 100% power output.	Our Price £69.95 Compact 352 New 1/2 inch Compact Cassette recorder with 4 tape compartments, 4000 hours of playing time, built-in speaker, 100% power output, 100% power output, 100% power output.	Cavendish Sales 27-29 WHITEHALL, LONDON EC4A 3DF 111-111 CENTRAL, NEWCASTLE 111-111 CENTRAL, NEWCASTLE 111-111 CENTRAL, NEWCASTLE

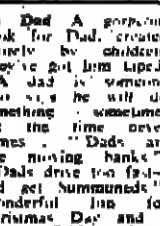
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Solve the usual, but for presents, with these Christmas ideas. All under £4. Money refunded if not delighted. Add up to £4.00 per book. 2000 copies. 100% power output. 100% power output, 100% power output.



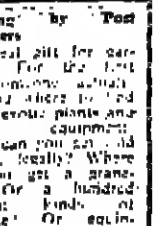
To Dad A poem... The ideal gift for Dad... 100% power output, 100% power output, 100% power output.



Shopping by Post... The ideal gift for Dad... 100% power output, 100% power output, 100% power output.



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